

1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE
3 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-02
4 SUBJECT: To Adjust Michigan District Circuits
5 REFERENCE: Overtures 2-09 and 2-11
6
7

8 **WHEREAS**, The 2018 Michigan District Convention resolved that “existing circuit alignment is affirmed
9 and retained in support of ongoing and future commitment to Living as God’s Saved and Sent Servants”
10 and charged “the Board of Directors to develop a process to keep the circuit in compliance with the
11 Synodical bylaws” (Resolution 2-11); and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Visitation circuits provide an important geographic connection for sister congregations and
14 pastors to work collaboratively to more effectively carry out the Great Commission to make disciples of
15 all people; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, Long-standing relationships among congregations in existing visitation circuits are a blessing
18 and should be encouraged, and any realignment of congregations in circuits should seek to cause as
19 little disruption in such relationships as possible; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 3.1.2a states: “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent
22 visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following
23 requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an
24 aggregate confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000”; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, It has been the custom of the Michigan District to establish visitation circuits that are large
27 enough to also be electoral circuits without combining with an adjacent circuit; and
28

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

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

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

- 47 1) Relationships in circuits are good and pleasing, minimum disruption is a good thing;

- 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, 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 Dearborn and Tri Rivers circuits as it consolidates these circuits into neighboring circuits; and be it further

Resolved, that the following circuits be renamed:

<u>Circuit Number</u>	<u>Current Name</u>	<u>New Circuit Name</u>
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:

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Current Circuit</u>	<u>Moves to Circuit</u>
St. John, Cheboygan	1 – Mackinaw Straits	2 – Alpena
Holy Cross, Onaway	1 – Mackinaw Straits	2 – Alpena
Immanuel, Rogers City	1 – Mackinaw Straits	2 – Alpena
St. Michael, Rogers City	1 – Mackinaw Straits	2 – Alpena
St. John, Rogers City	1 – Mackinaw Straits	2 – Alpena
Peace, Rogers City	1 – Mackinaw Straits	2 – Alpena
Faith, Hawks	1 – Mackinaw Straits	2 – Alpena
Living Water, Mio	2 – Alpena	3 – Timberline
Bethlehem, Lewiston	2 – Alpena	31 – Petoskey **

1	Congregation	Current Circuit	Moves to Circuit
2	St. John, Pinconning	6 – Bay City	4 – Gladwin
3	St. Philip, Owosso	10 – Saginaw	11 – Flint North
4	Faith, Bridgeport	10 – Saginaw	11 – Flint North
5			
6	St. Andrew, Memphis	14 – Port Huron	13 – Lapeer
7			
8	All Nations, Clinton Township	16 – Macomb NW	19 – Macomb South
9			
10	St. Philip’s, Detroit	21 – Detroit West	20 – Detroit East **
11	Nazareth, Detroit	21 – Detroit West	20 – Detroit East **
12			
13	Emmanuel, Dearborn	25 – Dearborn	21 – Dearborn / Detroit
14	Guardian, Dearborn	25 – Dearborn	21 – Dearborn / Detroit
15	St. Michael, Wayne	25 – Dearborn	21 – Dearborn / Detroit
16	St. Matthew, Westland	25 – Dearborn	21 – Dearborn / Detroit
17			
18	Peace, Ann Arbor	29 – Ann Arbor	28 – Milan
19	Our Savior, Chelsea	29 – Ann Arbor	28 – Milan
20			
21	Bethel, Howard City	37 – Tri River	34 – Big Rapids
22	Resurrection, Sand Lake	37 – Tri River	34 – Big Rapids
23	Hope, Stanton	37 – Tri River	34 – Big Rapids
24	Holy Cross, Belding	37 – Tri River	40 – Grand Rapids N Central
25	Mount Calvary, Greenville	37 – Tri River	40 – Grand Rapids N Central
26	St. John, Ionia	37 – Tri River	41 – Grand Rapids SW
27	Good Shepherd, Lowell	37 – Tri River	41 – Grand Rapids SW
28			
29	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Albion	42 – Battle Creek	44 – South Central
30	St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Three Rivers	42 – Battle Creek	44 – South Central
31			
32	** Also changes region.		
33			
34	Submitted by: Committee #2 – Kingdom Administration, Organization, Advancement, Thanks & Praise		
35	Rev. Mark Brandt and Rev. Dean Davenport, Co-Chairmen		