

# Convention Workbook - Part III



**“NOURISHED for the JOURNEY ... Remember · Renew · Return”**

**104th Michigan District Convention**

**Concordia University Ann Arbor**

**June 22-24, 2025**

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## Section 1 - 2025 Proposed Special Standing Rules (Revised)

1. The Convention shall adopt the Proposed Daily Agenda printed in the Convention Workbook – Part II.
2. The chair shall see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible.
3. Resolutions of each floor committee shall be prioritized by number and shall normally be presented in the numerical sequence published in the Convention Workbook – Part II.
4. **It shall be the discretion of the chairman or presenting member of the floor committee to read the preface, preamble, rationale, and whereas sections of resolutions from floor committees that are provided in print to the delegates. In addition, the chair of the convention is not required to read each resolution as he states the questions and then as he calls for the vote.**
5. Each member of the convention, when recognized by the chair, shall (a) state his name, (b) the name of his congregation or administrative unit he represents, and (c) the city or town where it is located.
6. Any person eligible to speak is limited to one time on any given issue and to two minutes except for the person or committee who made the motion, who will be entitled to two minutes after debate is closed.
7. In order to ensure that Advisory Delegates have an opportunity to advise the convention on resolutions, the following procedures will be followed:
  - When debate begins on a new or substitute resolution and an Advisory Delegate is at a microphone reserved for the Advisory Delegates, the Chairman of the Convention will call upon an Advisory Delegate to speak first to the issue at hand.
  - Before the vote is taken on the main motion on any numbered resolution from a floor committee (or a substitute motion to such), the Advisory Delegates will be asked to participate in an advisory poll and the results of the advisory poll will be shared with the convention. The chair will use the same type of polling procedure (voice, keypad, or raising of the right hand) that he intends to use for the main vote.
8. A delegate who speaks on an issue may not move to call the question at the close of his or her speech.
9. While any voting delegate may call the question at any time, after every 30 minutes of debate on any one motion there shall be an automatic call of the question by the chair.
10. Instead of only a voice vote on motions before the convention, the chair may also call for a keypad vote or raising of the right hand.
11. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter shall be offered two minutes to provide the rationale for offering it, and a member of the floor committee shall be offered two minutes to present rationale for not considering the proposed substitute, after which the convention shall decide by majority vote without further debate whether or not to consider the substitute.
  - If the decision is in the affirmative and if the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails.
  - If the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again considered. (This is an adaptation of the so-called “Behnken Rule” used at the Synodical Convention for addressing substitute motions.)
12. Whenever possible, substitute resolutions and amendments to proposed resolutions shall be submitted to the Secretary in advance of the proposed resolutions’ introduction to the convention. When this is not possible, a written copy of the proposed substitute motion or amendment shall be provided to the Secretary immediately after it is offered from the floor.
13. Any amendment exceeding ten (10) words must be submitted in writing to the chair.

14. A motion to close debate (“call the question”) shall apply only to the immediately pending question.
15. Questions of privilege shall be addressed in writing to the chair, or its appointee, instead of consuming convention time.
16. In the sessions of the last day, the chair shall have the privilege of calling up for action resolutions which, in his judgment, must be acted upon by the convention before adjournment.
17. Out of respect for others, and in order to promote an orderly and non-distracting convention atmosphere, the following guidance shall apply to the use, and area of use, of electronic equipment, including wired and wireless communication devices, laptops, tablets, cell phones, smart phones, pagers, PDAs, or other similar devices. **In all cases where use is permitted, the sound-producing capabilities of such devices shall not be used.** (NO personal extension cords will be allowed on the convention floor.) Please see chart below.

Attendees in Convention Hall	Type of Usage Permitted in Designated Area				
	Voice calls	Text messages, email, Internet browsing, or other forms of communication	Casting votes with official keypad	Accessing official polling application or website	Accessing stored documents on personal devices
Voting Delegates	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Advisory Delegates	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
BOD & Special Guests	No	Yes, convention business only	No	No	Yes
All Other Guests	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Convention Staff	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

18. The convention will be streamed via an online service that both broadcasts and archives the video and audio of the proceedings. Portions of the convention will be made available online for post-convention on-demand viewing. **Participant Release:** Participants who choose to engage in the proceedings of the convention give the Michigan District, LCMS implicit permission to record, broadcast, transcribe, and publish the audio and video. No releases are required.
- **Recording Authorization:** Unauthorized audio and/or video recordings of the Convention proceedings are strictly prohibited. Permission to record must be sought prior to the recording process. Private recording is not allowed without written permission. The Convention Chair is authorized to request that the recording be stopped.
  - **Transcriptions:** Approval must be obtained from Convention Chair with the understanding that the recording is ONLY for transcription purposes unless otherwise cleared (as in the policy above).
  - **Transcription Publication:** Publication of any record requires the approval of all participants whose material is represented in the record. Permission request and subsequent authorization is the exclusive responsibility of the requester.
  - **Copyright:** The Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod maintains ownership of the copyright.

19. No new business or motion for reconsideration may be offered in the afternoon of the last day of the convention. New business includes, but not exhaustively, substitute motions and original overtures.

## Section 2 - 2025 Convention Nominations (Revised)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

\* Incumbent

#### Metro East Region

##### *Layperson (Vote for 2)*

###### **Nicholas DeMiro**

533 Wilcox St, Rochester, MI 48307

Age: 58

Current Position: Automotive Industry Executive

Home Congregation: Grace, Romeo

Education/Degrees/Honors: Verona High School, Verona, N.J.; B.S., Mechanical Engineering (Aerospace), United States Military Academy; M.S., Systems Management, University of Southern California

Additional Training: 6 years of active duty as an Army Aviator

###### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Community: Member of the President's Club at Hillsdale College; Board Member on small Non-Profit Organizations: For the Vets, One Iron; Member of Vistage, a CEO Coaching and Peer Advisory Group.

Other: President of an Automotive Supplier

###### **Dan Nickodemus**

3066 Cross Creek Ct, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Age: 63

Current Position: Financial Advisor

Home Congregation: Historic Trinity, Detroit

Education/Degrees/Honors: Reese High School; B.S., Business Administration, Central Michigan University; M.B.A., Northwood University DeVos Graduate School; Certified Financial Planner (CFP) designation, College for Financial Planning

Additional Training: FINRA Series 7 & 66 Licenses (General Securities and Registered Investment Advisor);

Michigan Life, Health, Variable Products Insurance Licenses

###### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Treasurer and Vestry member, Historic Trinity, Inc.; Director and Secretary, Past Council Member, St. Lorenz Lutheran Church, Frankenmuth; Past Council Member, Our Savior Lutheran Church, S. Windsor, Conn.

District: Lay Delegate to District Convention (X2); Michigan District Endowment Advisory Committee

Synod: Lay Delegate to Synod Convention

Community: Travis Pointe Condominium Association & Road Association Board of Directors; Travis Pointe Country Club, Past President and Board of Directors

Other: Past Board Member, Lutheran Home Care Agency (now Wellspring Lutheran Services); Past Board of Regents, Concordia University Ann Arbor

## CHURCH EXTENSION FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

\* Incumbent

*Persons Duly Rostered in the LCMS and called or assigned with the Michigan District (Vote for 1)*

### **Matthew T. Dent**

5606 Johnsfield Rd, Standish, MI 48658

Age: 52

Current Position: Sole Pastor, Bethlehem, Standish

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Additional Training & Specialization: Credits toward an S.T.M. at Concordia Seminary St. Louis; Certified, Prepare & Enrich Facilitator

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Assistant Pastor, Christ the King, Grosse Pointe Woods; Vacancy Pastor, Risen Christ, Plymouth; Vacancy Pastor, Holy Redeemer, Sandusky, Ohio; Sole Pastor, Bethlehem, Standish

Synod: Circuit Pastoral Delegate - Synod Convention, 2016, 2019, 2023

Community: Vice President & Treasurer, FBLC Cooperative Corp.; Manager, FBLC Community Farms; LLC

Other: Circuit Pastoral Advisor - LWML (2014–2021); Station Manager – Michigan Lutheran Radio

### \* **Eric W. Majeski**

6532 Westridge, Washington Township, MI 48094

Age: 58

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Grace, Romeo

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.A., Concordia University Ann Arbor; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI)

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Associate Pastor, Redeemer, Warrington, Fla.; Assistant Pastor, St. John, Fraser; Associate Pastor, St. John, Fraser; Associate Pastor, Grace, Romeo; Senior Pastor, Grace, Romeo

Circuit: Circuit Visitor

District: Convention Nominating Committee; CEF Board of Trustees; Metro East Pastors Conference Committee Chair

Synod: Ordained Delegate to Synod Convention

Community: Mentor, Kids Hope USA; Ambassador, Northern Macomb Chamber of Commerce; Facilitator, Macomb County Rotating Emergency Team; Host, Gleaners Mobile Site

Other: Chair, Lutheran High School Association Board of Directors; Event Leader, Macomb Transformed for Christ

### **Martin P. Measel**

1593 South Teakwood Dr, Stevensville, MI 49127

Age: 58

Current Position: Senior Pastor, Christ, Stevensville

Education/Degrees/Honors: B.S., Lawrence Tech Univ. – Architecture; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Additional Training & Specialization: Hospital chaplain; Doxology

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Associate Pastor, Christ, Stevensville; Senior Pastor, Christ, Stevensville

Circuit: Delegate to District and Synod conventions; Committee for West Region Pastors Conference

Other: Board member, Benton Harbor Lutheran Outreach Ministry; Monthly church service at Pineridge Assisted Living

### **Laypersons (Vote for 3)**

#### **Michael A. Eichberger**

7130 Fillmore St, Allendale, MI 49401

Age: 44

Current Position: School Partnership Specialist, Grand Valley State University

Home Congregation: Holy Cross, Jenison

Education/Degrees/Honors: Port Huron Northern High School; B.Pol.Sc., Grand Valley State University; M.P.A, Grand Valley State University

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Daily Shepherd Pre-School Board member at Holy Cross Lutheran Church (2015–2017); Holy Cross Lutheran Church Board of Vestry member (2019–2021), Holy Cross Lutheran Church Board of Vestry Vice-Chair (2020), Holy Cross Lutheran Church Board of Vestry member (2024–2026)

Community: Career and Technical Education (CTE) advisory board member, Hudsonville High School Business program; Career and Technical Education (CTE) advisory board member, Charlotte High School Teacher Academy program; Career and Technical Education (CTE) advisory board member, Sparta High School Teacher Academy program

#### **Amy Engelhardt**

5095 Hilltop Estates Dr, Clarkston, MI 48348

Age: 46

Current Position: Physician – Chief Medical Officer, Henry Ford Hospital

Home Congregation: St. John, Rochester

Education/Degrees/Honors: Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw; B.S., Michigan State University; M.B.A., University of Michigan Stephen M. Ross School of Business; D.O., Des Moines University

Additional Training & Specialization: Transitional Year Internship, Henry Ford Hospital (2005–2006); Internal Medicine Residency, Henry Ford Macomb (2006–2008); Physician Leadership Institute, Henry Ford Medical Group (2019–2020)

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Community: Commissioner, State of Michigan; Certificate of Need Commission MiSide Quality Board Member

#### **Al D. Kaul**

c/o Valley Lutheran High School 3560 McCarty Rd, Saginaw, MI 48603

Age: 56

Current Position: Executive Director, Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw

Home Congregation: Immanuel, Saginaw

Education/Degrees/Honors: Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw; B.A., University of Michigan; M.S.W, University of Michigan

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Various elected church positions; Valley Lutheran High School's various boards and committees prior to hire

District: Lay Delegate to District Convention

Community: Leading Age Michigan Board of Directors; Valley Society of Human Resource Management Board of Directors

Other: Wellspring Lutheran Services – various positions; Crossroads Counseling Services Board of Directors

#### **Michael Martin**

3337 Poinsetta Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508

Age: 63

Current Position: Executive Director of Christian Outreach For Africa

Education/Degrees/Honors: Mason High School, Mason; B.S.G.E, Michigan Tech University; M.B.A. (Finance), Michigan State University

Home Congregation: St. Matthew, Grand Rapids

Additional Training & Specialization: Charter Financial Analyst

#### **HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Board of Directors, Chairman and Treasurer; Call Committee Chairman; Endowment Committee Chairman

District: Member of Michigan Church Extension Fund's Investment Committee

Community: Member of Volunteers In Service's Board of Directors

Other: Member of Christian Outreach For Africa's Michigan Advisory Board

**Julian H. Petzold**

24752 Victoria Ct, Harrison Township, MI 48045

Age: 54

Current Position: President, Lion Safety Consulting

Home Congregation: Trinity, Clinton Township

Education/Degrees/Honors: Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw; B.A., Concordia University Chicago; M.A., Oakland University, Rochester, Mich.; Ph.D., Concordia University Chicago

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Service: Teacher, St. John, Rochester; Director of School Ministries, Rochester; Principal/EC Director, Trinity, Saint Joseph; Principal, Trinity, Clinton Township; Executive Director, Valley Lutheran H.S., Saginaw

District: CEF Board of Trustees (2007–2021)

**James A. Sundstrom**

12374 Madonna Dr, Lansing, MI 48917

Age: 61

Current Position: Sales Manager, ETM Enterprises

Home Congregation: Our Savior, Lansing

Education/Degrees/Honors: Northwest High School, Jackson; B.B.A., Spring Arbor University

**HISTORY OF SERVICE – PAST AND CURRENT**

Congregation: Chairman of Board of Elders, Our Savior, Lansing; Board of Directors, Our Savior, Lansing

District: Lay Delegate to District Conventions; CEF Ambassador



### **Section 3 - Resolutions (Revised)**

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-02A  
3 SUBJECT: Realignment of Circuits  
4 REFERENCE: Overture 1-04  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, St. Stephen, Waterford has grown close to the ministries of the Kensington circuit; and  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, The Kensington Circuit is at risk of losing its electoral status due to congregations  
10 shrinking and closing; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Trinity, Warren recently dissolved and the Macomb South Circuit is at risk of losing its  
13 electoral status due to this closure; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Holy Cross, Warren is in Warren, MI and a part of Macomb County; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, Holy Cross, Warren is currently a part of the Birmingham Circuit which is located in  
18 Oakland County; therefore be it  
19

20 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention transfer St. Stephen, Waterford from the North  
21 Oakland Circuit to the Kensington Circuit; and be it  
22

23 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention transfer Holy Cross, Warren from the Birmingham  
24 Circuit to the Macomb South Circuit.  
25  
26

27 Submitted by: Committee #1 – Administration  
28 Rev. Dean Davenport, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-08A  
3 SUBJECT: Encouraging Accuracy of Call Documents  
4 REFERENCE: Overture 1-10  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the LCMS states that one of the objectives of the LCMS is to “Aid in  
8 providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers, and their families in the  
9 event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death” (*LCMS Handbook 2023*, Article III,  
10 Objectives, Objective 10, page 12); and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, In some cases the Call Documents presented to professional church workers have  
13 incorrectly identified benefits provided by the congregation and have resulted in the professional  
14 church workers not receiving the pay and/or benefits noted in the Call Documents presented to them  
15 by the calling entities; therefore be it  
16

17 **Resolved**, That congregations and other calling entities be encouraged to verify and double check  
18 that the Call Documents have been prepared correctly, comparing the benefits offered in the Call  
19 Documents to the employer benefit election sheet provided by Concordia Plans prior to the start of  
20 each benefit year as well as other benefit plans the congregation may have; and be it further  
21

22 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District urge the Council of Presidents to revise the Call Document  
23 Template for clarity and simplicity.  
24

25 Submitted by: Committee #1 – Administration  
26 Rev. Dean Davenport, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-10  
3 SUBJECT: To Encourage Presidential Visitation  
4 REFERENCE: Overture 1-07  
5

6 **WHEREAS,** The president of each district of Synod is called upon, "In his ministry of ecclesiastical  
7 supervision [to] visit the congregations of the district," (synodical bylaw 4.4.4) at least once every  
8 triennium for specific duties outlined in same bylaw; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS,** The same bylaw allows the use of circuit visitors and vice-presidents to assist the  
11 president in this visitation responsibility; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS,** The president also "shall supervise the doctrine, the life, and official administration on  
14 the part of the ordained and commissioned ministers who are members through his district or are  
15 subject to his ecclesiastical supervision," (synodical bylaw 4.4.5); and  
16

17 **WHEREAS,** The same bylaw allows the use of circuit visitors to assist the president in this supervisory  
18 responsibility; therefore be it  
19

20 ***Resolved,*** That the President of the Michigan District be encouraged and supported by the Michigan  
21 District Convention in his assigned task of visitation and supervision of both congregations and  
22 ministers in his district.  
23

24 Submitted by: Floor Committee #1 – Administration  
25 Rev. Dean Davenport, Chairman  
26

COMMITTEE NAME: Administration  
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-11  
SUBJECT: To Declare the Commission on Constitutional Matters  
Unconstitutional  
REFERENCE: Overture 1-09

**WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the Synod controls and supersedes bylaws and all other rules and regulations of the Synod (Art XIV); and

**WHEREAS,** The Constitution of the Synod grants specific powers to the Synod in convention to form corporate entities which shall have legal powers (Art IV); and

**WHEREAS,** The Synod Constitution has limited synodical governance to executive (Art X and XI) and legislative powers (Art IV and XIV), specifically excluding any judicial power; and

**WHEREAS,** The congregations of the Synod have reserved all grants of judicial power; and

**WHEREAS,** The Commission on Constitutional Matters has no Constitutional grant of power; and

**WHEREAS,** The Commission on Constitutional Matters has been created by the Synod in Convention through Bylaws; and

**WHEREAS,** The Synod in convention exceeded its legislative powers when it created the Commission on Constitutional Matters by granting it judicial powers, through its acts in a judicial manner through its interpretations and reviews and the publication of its “opinions;” and

**WHEREAS,** The congregations of the Synod have limited the Synod in convention’s legislative powers, specifically “The Synod in convention may adopt bylaws that are consistent with and do not contradict the Constitution of the Synod” (Art XIV); and

**WHEREAS,** The Commission on Constitutional Matters exists to exercise judicial functions, being the interpretation of the Synod’s governing documents (3.9.2 and 3.9.2.2) and through the publication of “opinions;” and

**WHEREAS,** The Synod in convention has exceeded its limited powers under Art XIV, as the Commission on Constitutional Matters role is not consistent with the Constitution of the Synod by exercising judicial powers; and

**WHEREAS,** The Synod in convention has exceeded its limited powers under Art XIV, as the Commission on Constitutional Matters role contradicts with the Constitution of the Synod by exercising judicial functions, and furthermore, the Synod is not an ecclesiastical government exercising legislative or coercive powers . . . (Art VII); therefore be it

**Resolved,** That the Michigan District in convention direct the District President to form a task force to consider if the Commission on Constitutional Matters has been properly formed, whether by the use of bylaws the Synod has effectively amended the Constitution without the required ratification by congregations, and that this task force report back to the 2028 Convention.

Submitted by: Committee #1 – Administration  
Rev. Dean Davenport

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-01 A  
3 SUBJECT: To Define and Affirm Lutheran Identity  
4 REFERENCE: Overtures 2-03, 2-04, 2-05, 2-07  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The term “Lutheran Identity” is used without having a clear definition, nor having  
8 Scriptural or Confessional references; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod states in Article II of its constitution:  
11

12 Article II Confession

13 The Synod, and every member of the Synod, accepts without reservation:

- 14 1. The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule  
15 and norm of faith and of practice
- 16 2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated  
17 statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles’  
18 Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the  
19 Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, the  
20 Small Catechism of Luther, and the Formula of Concord; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, The Augsburg Confession Article VII. [THE CHURCH] declares, “...It is enough to agree  
23 concerning the teaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments. It is not necessary  
24 that human traditions or rites and ceremonies, instituted by men, should be alike everywhere. It is as  
25 Paul says, ‘One faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all,’ etc.” (Eph. 4:5, 6) ACVII; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, According to article XXVIII of the Augsburg Confession: “It is necessary that the doctrine of  
28 Christian freedom be preserved in the churches. In other words, the bondage of the Law is not  
29 necessary in order to be justified, as it is written in the Epistle to the Galatians, ‘Do not submit again  
30 to a yoke of slavery’ (5:1). It is necessary for the chief article of the Gospel to be preserved, namely  
31 that we obtain grace freely by faith in Christ, and not by certain observances or acts of worship  
32 devised by people ... It is proper to keep such ordinances just so long as consciences are not  
33 burdened to think that they are necessary to salvation, or to regard it as sin if they are changed  
34 without offending others” (51, 52, 56); and  
35

36 **WHEREAS**, According to article X of the Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration: “As soon as Christian  
37 freedom is weakened and human traditions are forced on the Church with coercion, as though it  
38 were wrong and a sin to omit them, the way is already prepared for idolatry. In this way, human  
39 traditions are multiplied and regarded as divine worship, not only equal to God’s ordinances, but  
40 even placed above them” (15); and  
41

42 **WHEREAS**, There is great benefit in common traditions, rites, and ceremonies, as stated in the  
43 Augsburg Confession XXIV, “Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass; for the Mass is  
44 retained among us, and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are  
45 also preserved, save that the parts sung in Latin are interspersed here and there with German  
46 hymns, which have been added to teach the people. nearly all the usual ceremonies are preserved ...  
47 to teach the people,” and stated in 4-04A Resolution of the 2016 Convention, “To Appeal to the  
48 LCMS Congregations, Workers, and Institutions within Christian Freedom and for Love’s Sake to  
49 Maintain a Common Order of Service for the Lord’s Supper” although they do not form the basis of  
50 our unity or identity, but are useful for teaching the faith; therefore, be it  
51

1 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District reaffirm the definition of “Lutheran Identity” as already listed in  
2 the Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions and Synodical Constitution namely that:

- 3 (1) Lutheran Identity is found in the right teaching of the Gospel and the administration of the  
4 Sacraments, not in the uniformity of human rites, ceremonies, or traditions instituted by men  
5 (2) Lutheran Identity is found in the acceptance of the Scriptures of the Old and the New  
6 Testament as the written, inerrant Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of  
7 practice  
8 (3) Lutheran identity is found in the acceptance of all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical  
9 Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God;  
10 and be it further  
11

12 **Resolved,** That all policies and bylaws of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod regarding “Lutheran  
13 Identity,” be examined and brought into conformity with the Scriptures and the Confessions  
14 mentioned above; and be it finally  
15

16 **Resolved,** That if adopted, this Overture is memorialized and sent onto Synod for the 2026 Synodical  
17 Convention.  
18

19 Submitted by: Committee #2 – Doctrine  
20 Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski, Chairman

COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine  
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-03 A  
SUBJECT: To Encourage Young People to Enter Church Worker  
Vocations  
REFERENCE: Overture 2-08

**WHEREAS**, Our Lord states that, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few,” and commands his church to “pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Matt. 9:37-38); and

**WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a long, rich history of educating men and women towards church work vocations that continues to this day; and

**WHEREAS**, There is an apparent dearth of young people seeking to enter church work vocations, especially Lutheran school teachers and pastors; and

**WHEREAS**, Most church workers attribute their vocational decisions to mentors and other church work leaders throughout their lives; therefore be it

**Resolved**, That each and every church worker in the Michigan District be encouraged to set a goal of encouraging at least one individual per year towards professional church worker training; and be it further

**Resolved**, That every congregation in the Michigan District seek to support both in encouragement and finances the sending of young people to such institutions as train these workers;

**Resolved**, That every congregation facilitate the use of “Set Apart to Serve” and celebrate church worker Sundays throughout the year by highlighting various vocations; and be it further

**Resolved**, That every educational institution of the Michigan District ~~be urged and encouraged to require~~ urge and encourage its teachers to complete the Synod’s colloquy program; and offer financial support, and be it further

**Resolved**, That every church worker be encouraged to conduct oneself in word and deed in such a way that actively (and passively) encourages young people to seek church work vocations; and be it finally

**Resolved**, That the Michigan District memorialize the Synod in convention to adopt a similar resolution.

Submitted by: Committee #2 – Doctrine  
Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski, Chairman



1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-06 A  
3 SUBJECT: To Condemn "Stone Choir" and Call Proponents  
4 of Its Teachings to Repentance  
5 REFERENCE: Overture 2-01  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Twitter/X personalities Corey J. Mahler (@CoreyJMahler) and Ryan "Woe" Dumperth  
9 (@treblewoe) began releasing episodes of the Stone Choir podcast on Oct. 19, 2022, to tackle  
10 issues relevant to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) that, in their judgment, the  
11 pastors and leadership of the LCMS were not addressing, leaving Mahler and Dumperth to  
12 function as "the very stones" who must "cry out" because the clergy are silent (Luke 19:40); and  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, These issues on which the pastors and leadership of the LCMS are accused by the Stone  
15 Choir hosts of remaining silent include the ostensible necessity of the reintroduction of racial  
16 segregation; the ostensible sinfulness of interracial marriage; the ostensibly pernicious nature of the  
17 Jewish race today; and the ostensibly fictitious nature of the Jewish Holocaust perpetrated by the  
18 National Socialists during World War II; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, None of Stone Choir's positions on these aforementioned issues is taught in Holy Scripture,  
21 and indeed their positions on these issues cause great offense to many Christians of good will; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, Stone Choir hosts Mahler and Dumperth are active on Twitter/X, and Stone Choir listeners  
24 are likely to be influenced not only by what Mahler and Dumperth teach on the Stone Choir podcast,  
25 but also by what they post on Twitter/X; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, On Twitter/X, Corey Mahler and Dumperth, among other outrageously offensive behaviors,  
28 openly praise Adolf Hitler, call for the genocide or deportation of Jews, Muslims, and Blacks from  
29 the United States, and condemn as sin the practice of interracial marriage and adoption, causing great  
30 offense to Christian consciences; and  
31

32 **WHEREAS**, Through their activity on the Stone Choir podcast and on Twitter/X, Mahler and Dumperth  
33 have sought to associate confessional Lutheranism with devotion to Adolf Hitler, opposition to the  
34 Jewish race, and a desire for segregation of Blacks from white society; and  
35

36 **WHEREAS**, Mahler and Dumperth have publicly denounced all pastors of the LCMS as "either apostate  
37 or derelict" and on their podcast and on Twitter/X have attempted to turn their listeners against  
38 their pastors, including through the use of threats, intimidation, and harassment of pastors, their  
39 wives, and their families; and  
40

41 **WHEREAS**, pastors, their wives, and their families have been threatened, intimidated, and harassed  
42 in several LCMS districts, to the extent that district and synodical presidents have condemned such  
43 speech; and  
44

45 **WHEREAS**, Mahler is excommunicated and therefore under discipline and Dumperth is no longer a  
46 member of an LCMS congregation and is therefore beyond the reach of church discipline, yet both  
47 usurp the Pastoral Office through public "sermons" and teachings; therefore be it  
48

49 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention publicly condemn the teachings of the Stone Choir  
50 podcast and its hosts, for the offense they cause by their public devotion to Adolf Hitler, their stirring  
51 up of antipathy toward our Jewish and Black neighbors, their denunciation as sin of that which God

1 has not called sin, and their open hostility toward the pastors and leadership of the LCMS; and be it  
2 further

3  
4 **Resolved,** That the laity of the Michigan District be warned against the Stone Choir podcast and its  
5 hosts, and that the pastors of the Michigan District be encouraged to admonish members of their  
6 congregations whose approval of such racist and anti-Semitic beliefs has become known; and be it  
7 further

8  
9 **Resolved,** That pastors and teachers of the Michigan District be encouraged to examine the  
10 teachings of Stone Choir according to the norm of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions,  
11 demonstrating from these clear and firm testimonies how Stone Choir is in error; and pastors and  
12 teachers of the Michigan District acknowledge that these teachings violate the Fifth Commandment;  
13 and be it further

14  
15 **Resolved,** That pastors and teachers of the Michigan District be encouraged to teach the truth of  
16 God's Word that all human creatures of all nations, tribes, languages, and peoples are made in  
17 God's image and redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus, and that pastors and teachers  
18 would use Synod and District resources that promote the same; and be it finally

19  
20 **Resolved,** That the LCMS in convention be memorialized to condemn the teachings of the Stone Choir  
21 podcast and its current hosts, and to admonish pastors and teachers who promote the same.

22  
23 Submitted by: Committee #2 – Doctrine  
24 Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education  
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-02A  
3 SUBJECT: To Express Lament and Sympathy Regarding Concordia  
4 University Ann Arbor  
5 REFERENCE: Overtures 3-01, 3-02, & 3-05  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The congregations and people of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
8 Synod have treasured a close relationship with Concordia University Ann Arbor since its founding in  
9 1963; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Concordia University Wisconsin and Concordia University Ann Arbor formally joined  
12 together in ministry in 2013, with Concordia University Wisconsin taking on the primary financial  
13 responsibility; and the Districts surrounding Concordia University Ann Arbor, including our Michigan  
14 District, the Ohio District, the English District, as well as a number of donors from the same, including  
15 the Michigan District Church Extension Fund, all contributed financial support; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, Concordia University Ann Arbor was listed as one of the fastest-growing private colleges in  
18 the state of Michigan, with the 2024–25 school year on track to have the highest enrollment in its  
19 history; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, The majority of the Board of Regents of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor  
22 approved in 2024 President Erik Ankerberg's plans that have substantially and materially reduced  
23 operations of the Ann Arbor campus; and that despite the heroic efforts of faithful supporters,  
24 including President David Davis, the Michigan District Board of Directors, and many generous  
25 donors, to simply delay drastic changes so that better plans might be explored and implemented;  
26 and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, These changes have resulted in the loss of employment for a number of staff, negatively  
29 impacted students and their families, caused anger and distrust of Synod and the university's  
30 leadership among alumni and many faithful members of Synod, and damaged the once close and  
31 treasured relationship between Concordia University Ann Arbor with the congregations and people of  
32 the Michigan District; therefore be it  
33

34 **Resolved**, That the congregations of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
35 here in convention express lament over the poorly executed actions of President Erik Ankerberg and  
36 the majority of the Board of Regents of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor; and be it  
37 further  
38

39 **Resolved**, That the congregations of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
40 here in convention express sympathy with the many that have been adversely affected by these  
41 actions; and be it finally  
42

43 **Resolved**, That, as *People of Hope*, the congregations of the Michigan District of The Lutheran  
44 Church—Missouri Synod lift up our brothers and sisters in prayer as they are *nourished for the*  
45 *journey*, keeping in mind the words of Paul in Romans 8:28 that God works for the good of those who  
46 love Him and have been called according to His purpose.  
47

48 Submitted by: Committee #3 – Education  
49 Rev. Erik K. Cloeter, Chairman  
50

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education  
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-04A  
3 SUBJECT: A Call for Concordia University Wisconsin Ann Arbor's  
4 Leadership to Accountability and Repentance  
5 REFERENCE: Overture 3-04  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Concordia University Ann Arbor (CUAA), was founded in 1963 by The Lutheran Church—  
9 Missouri Synod (LCMS), and since 2013 has been governed by the CUWAA Board of Regents; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, On Feb 8, 2024 a majority of the CUWAA Board of Regents (BOR) voted unilaterally to  
12 take action and President Ankerberg announced in a Feb 13 email to significantly reduce operations,  
13 enact staff reductions and dispose of property, facilities and equipment; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, The Eighth Commandment requires truthfulness in all our dealings with others, and the  
16 Ninth and Tenth Commandments protect us from all evil desires which lead to the breaking of all the  
17 other commandments; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, The May 31, 2024 CUWAA Task Force Report states, “In the first week of April, the  
20 Subcommittee contacted the Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana District Presidents, the English District  
21 Bishop, the LCMS Board of Directors, the Concordia University System Board, and the Michigan  
22 District Extension Fund, to determine (a) whether, and to what extent, each entity would be willing to  
23 make an initial “launch” contribution toward an independent CUAA by December 31, 2024, and (b)  
24 whether, and to what extent, each entity would be willing to commit to ongoing annual support for an  
25 independent CUAA. Per the Resolution, other CUS schools were not approached to serve as financial  
26 partners for the Ann Arbor campus (p. 24);” and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, Mr. James Saalfeld, CEO of the Church Extension Fund (CEF) - Michigan District, wrote on  
29 June 14, 2024 in his CEO Update, “The report then states CEF failed to respond to this inquiry. This is  
30 not true. First, CEF was never contacted as alleged in the report. Second, CEF’s rich history of  
31 supporting CUAA makes the implication that CEF was indifferent without merit.”  
32 ([churchextensionfund.com/news/ceo-update](http://churchextensionfund.com/news/ceo-update)); and  
33

34 **WHEREAS**, the Ohio District Board of Directors of the LCMS wrote to the CUWAA Board (June 14,  
35 2024), “No dialogue with the Ohio District President or Board of Directors ever occurred. While  
36 Michigan may have responded affirmatively, Ohio did not have the opportunity to consider it.”  
37 ([oh.lcms.org/images/documents/BOD/2024-06-14-OH-BOD\\_RESPONSE-LTR-CUWAA.pdf](http://oh.lcms.org/images/documents/BOD/2024-06-14-OH-BOD_RESPONSE-LTR-CUWAA.pdf)); and  
38

39 **WHEREAS**, Follow-up correspondence in July 2024 with all parties indicate that all hold to their  
40 previous statements or have no further comment; therefore be it  
41

42 **Resolved**, That the CUWAA Board of Regents and responsible administrators be held to account for  
43 the above false statement and libel, by repenting in writing to all Michigan District Church Extension  
44 Fund (CEF) and Ohio District constituents confessing the sin and admitting the defamation of  
45 reputation of the harmed; and be it further  
46

47 **Resolved**, That the Presidents of Ohio and Michigan Districts and the CEO of the ~~ML-CEF~~ Michigan  
48 District Church Extension Fund (CEF) stand prepared to grant holy absolution at the appropriate  
49 Conventions to the CUWAA Board Officers and President who state their repentance and desire to  
50 relate in forthright honesty with one another; and be it finally  
51

1    ***Resolved,*** That the Michigan District initiate a good faith effort with the CUWAA Board of Regents by  
2    September 2025 to rebuild trust and confidence among the aforementioned disenfranchised  
3    supporters and that the effort be widely disseminated in the official publications of the Michigan  
4    District and forwarded for publication in the LCMS Reporter, as well as the Concordia Wisconsin's  
5    social media and printed communication venues.  
6

7    Submitted by: Floor Committee #3- Education  
8                   Rev. Erik K. Cloeter, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education  
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-07A  
3 SUBJECT: Project Postmortem Examination of CUAA  
4 REFERENCE:  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, It is desirable to enhance the level of trust and support in the Concordia University  
8 System (CUS) and the respective Concordia institutions contained therein, regarding processes and  
9 decisions that lead to any substantial and material downsizing or elimination of any university; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, There has not been an independent analysis of the actions taken by the Board of Regents  
12 of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor regarding the contractual framework and resultant  
13 decisions leading to the substantial and material reduction of operations of the Ann Arbor campus;  
14 therefore be it  
15

16 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod memorialize the Synod  
17 in convention to direct that an independent committee be established, under the oversight of the  
18 Board of Directors of Synod, to do a project post-mortem analysis of the contractual agreements  
19 involved in the acquisition of Concordia Ann Arbor by Concordia Wisconsin, audited financial  
20 statements, and processes involved regarding decisions pertaining to the acquisition and  
21 subsequent downsizing of the Concordia Ann Arbor campus and its programs; and be it further  
22

23 **Resolved**, That the independent committee's membership include at a minimum those District  
24 Presidents representing all former and current Concordia Universities excluding those Districts that  
25 are associated with a Concordia University involved in any current litigation with Synod; and be it  
26 finally  
27

28 **Resolved**, That the findings of this committee be made available to the Synod and all District  
29 Presidents.  
30

31 Submitted by: Floor Committee #3 – Education  
32 Rev. Erik K. Cloeter, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Mission  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-01A  
3 SUBJECT: To Exhort Members of the LCMS to Earnestly and Regularly  
4 Pray for and Pursue Synodical Unity  
5 REFERENCE: Overture 4-02  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed for the unity of His Church so that the world might believe  
9 He has been sent by the Father (John 17:11, 20-23); and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Jesus stated, “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for  
12 one another” (John 13:35); and “In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may  
13 see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16); and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, The Apostle Paul enjoins God’s people to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which  
16 you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in  
17 love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:1-3); and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, Holy Scripture is filled with many other similar prayers for and exhortations to pursue  
20 unity and reconciliation in the Church (Psalm 133:1; Matthew 5:23-25; 7:1-5; 18:15-35; Romans  
21 12; 15:5; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:12; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:4-6;  
22 Philippians 1:27; 2:1-11; Colossians 3:14; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 John 4:20, etc.); and  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, The first objective listed in Article III of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s  
25 Constitution is to “Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10), work  
26 through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a  
27 united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;” and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, Unity in the Church is a gift from God (Romans 15:5-6) we should humbly seek from Him  
30 in prayer; and  
31

32 **WHEREAS**, Division and acrimony between Christians severely compromises the witness of the  
33 Church to the world and may directly impede the proclamation of the Gospel and may thereby  
34 threaten the eternal salvation of numerous souls; and  
35

36 **WHEREAS**, Such disunity, where it is not necessary to maintain fidelity to the Scriptures, and the  
37 Confessions, but is rather the result of human sin, such disunity tarnishes God’s name and thus  
38 violates the Second Commandment; and  
39

40 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS is frequently known even outside of the Synod for its internal conflicts and for  
41 the refusal of pastors, congregations, and circuits to commune together; and  
42

43 **WHEREAS**, Strife and division in the Church for sinful reasons are indications that the Church is  
44 reflecting the ways of the world rather than providing a godly alternative to it; and  
45

46 **WHEREAS**, Satan, who is the father of all lies and a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44),  
47 fervently desires to catechize Christians in the ways of Hell and in demonic discord that so frequently  
48 marks interactions in the world; therefore be it  
49

1 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention strongly urge its members to pray fervently, both in  
2 corporate worship and as individuals, for the unity and health of The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
3 Synod, believing that all things are possible with God (Phil. 4:13); and be it further  
4

5 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention exhort its members to review and renew their commitment  
6 to the Eighth Commandment and to self-restraint in speech and anger (James 1:19); and be it  
7 further  
8

9 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention implore its members be quick to listen (James 1:19) and to  
10 seek out opportunities to listen to and dialogue with those they disagree with, in order that mutual  
11 understanding, fidelity to doctrine, harmony, forgiveness, and reconciliation might be facilitated and  
12 abound among us; and be it further  
13

14 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention encourage its members to employ extraordinary efforts  
15 toward caution, patience, clear communication, and love when navigating issues which have  
16 historically been or have the potential to be a source of division, and that all such issues be  
17 approached with a posture of humility and repentance for any ways in which we have contributed to  
18 disunity in the past; and be it further  
19

20 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention exhort its members to resist the temptation to imitate  
21 secular partisanship by lording it over each other and employing slander, coercion, secrecy, and  
22 power as the default means of addressing disagreements, but rather to seek to be servants of all  
23 (Matthew 20:25–28), to engage in substantive and long-suffering efforts toward reconciliation with  
24 those who have something against us (Matthew 5:23–25) and to display the mind of Christ  
25 (Philippians 2:1–11); and be it further  
26

27 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention memorialize Synod in Convention to all the same ends; and  
28 be it finally  
29

30 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention memorialize Synod in Convention to organize a task force  
31 representative of Synod's makeup as a whole to study and develop recommendations: 1) to clarify  
32 the distinction between doctrine and adiaphora (matters of indifference neither commanded nor  
33 forbidden by God) in matters which are currently the source of conflict; 2) to avoid imitating patterns  
34 of secular politics and partisan ways of relating to each other within the Church; and 3) to address  
35 and resolve divisions of altar fellowship within the Synod where and if any such divisions are not a  
36 matter of conscience borne out of doctrinal necessity, but instead stem from differences of opinion  
37 or preference.  
38

39 Submitted by: Floor Committee #4 – Mission  
40 Rev. Craig Bickel, Chairman



1 COMMITTEE NAME: Mission  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-03A  
3 SUBJECT: To Commend the Deacon and Ministry Assistant Training  
4 Through the Michigan School of Missional Formation and to  
5 Encourage Greater Enrollment  
6 REFERENCE: Overture 3-15  
7  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, already in 1989, recognized the need for  
10 intentional lay training programs in the synodical Districts to equip men as deacons (Resolution 3-  
11 05B), and again in its 2016 national convention the Synod encouraged districts to continue such lay  
12 training programs even as this resolution was framed to regularize the service of Licensed Lay  
13 Deacons (Resolution 13-02A); and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, The practice of appointing deacons has served to expand the effectiveness of the  
16 ordained pastoral ministry since the earliest days of the Church, as recognized by Dr. Samuel  
17 Nafzger in his address to the 1989 delegates, “The adoption of Resolution 3-05(B) does not initiate  
18 a single new practice in the doctrine of the ministry of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It will,  
19 however, initiate proper supervision of those practices we have long recognized as being consistent  
20 with our understanding of the doctrine of the ministry” (1989 Convention Proceedings, pg. 114); and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District has been a leader in such training programs, and has been training  
23 deacons for assistance to the pastoral ministry since 1989 and has continued to expand and  
24 improve the quality and effectiveness of the training through the ongoing work of the Commission on  
25 Deacon Qualifications; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, Michigan District deacons serve only under a supervising LCMS pastor as assistants to  
28 his ministry, and in the case of a congregation where a credentialed deacon may need to be  
29 temporarily “licensed” for Word and Sacrament ministry because the District is unable to provide a  
30 pastor. When “emergency knows no rule” (see Res. 13-02A, 2016, p. 237) then that deacon is  
31 enrolled in the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) or the Alternate Route (AR) to ordination. In the last  
32 triennium, three credentialed deacons or deacon candidates have enrolled in studies at one of our  
33 LCMS seminaries toward ordination through SMP and two through AR; and  
34

35 **WHEREAS**, The servant leadership of well-trained and credentialed deacons has blessed many  
36 Michigan District congregations and their pastors; and  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District Commission on Deacon Qualification (CDQ) has worked diligently to  
39 honor the requirements of both Resolution 3-05(B) 1989 and Resolution 13-02(A) 2016, and has  
40 successfully developed a way (both the non-degreed “Classic-Plus” and the MA degree on the  
41 KAIROS University asynchronous platform) to effectively train lay students in the Scriptures,  
42 Lutheran doctrine, Church history, and ministry disciplines of Christian caregiving, Christian outreach,  
43 teaching the faith, Lutheran worship, basic biblical interpretation, and leadership; and  
44

45 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan School of Missional Formation utilizes ONLY our Michigan District, LCMS  
46 terminal-degreed faculty who are faithful to the inspired Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions  
47 drawn from them; and the MSM program of study was found to qualify as a master’s degree program  
48 on the Kairos University platform so that deacon students are able to receive a Master of Arts in  
49 Missional Formation in recognition of their achievement; therefore be it

1 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District in Convention thank God for the ongoing work of the  
2 Commission on Deacon Qualification and the faculty of the Michigan School of Missional Formation;  
3 and be it further  
4

5 **Resolved,** That the training provided through the Michigan School of Missional Formation be  
6 commended to the congregations of the District and each congregation be encouraged to prayerfully  
7 identify one or more men from among their membership to be raised up and trained as credentialed  
8 deacons and one or more women from among their membership be raised up and trained as  
9 ministry assistants through said school; and be it further  
10

11 **Resolved,** That the ongoing services of well-trained credentialed deacons and ministry assistants,  
12 under the supervision of ordained pastors, continue to be encouraged and celebrated in the  
13 Michigan District; and be it further  
14

15 **Resolved,** That with respect to Synod Resolution 13-02A (2016), the Council of Presidents continue  
16 to support the district training of credentialed deacons and, in times of emergency where needed,  
17 license them for Word and Sacrament ministry.  
18

19 Submitted by: Floor Committee #4 – Mission  
20 Rev. Craig Bickel, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Mission  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-04A  
3 SUBJECT: A Triennial Mission and Ministry Emphasis on the Clear  
4 Proclamation of the Gospel, Unity in Christ, and Multicultural  
5 Ministry  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, “the District convention shall, through the delegate vote, forward to the national  
9 convention a list of two or three triennial mission and ministry emphases for consideration by the  
10 national convention” (Bylaw 4.2.1(d)); and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Romans 1:16 calls us to proclaim the Gospel, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel,  
13 because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then  
14 to the Gentile”; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, The *Apology of the Augsburg Confession* Article IV, on Justification, confesses the central  
17 teaching of the Gospel, namely, that we are justified by grace through faith in Christ alone; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, Part II, Article I of the *Smalcald Articles* states, “The first and chief article is this: That  
20 Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins and was raised again for our justification” (Romans  
21 4:25); and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, Jesus commands His people, “Love on another. As I have loved you, so you must love one  
24 another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John  
25 13:34,35); and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, We should celebrate the unity we have in Christ; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS has historically emphasized proclaiming the clear and compelling Gospel to all  
30 people, without distinction; and  
31

32 **WHEREAS**, The local Church is beautifully diverse in language, ethnicity, and life experiences  
33 Michigan District first “All Nations” gathering in the spring of this year; and  
34

35 **WHEREAS**, There is a great need for a Strengthened LCMS multicultural ministry in the local context;  
36 therefore be it  
37

38 **Resolved**, That the LCMS boldly and faithfully proclaims the Gospel clearly, confidently, and joyfully in  
39 all its purity, and be it further  
40

41 **Resolved**, That we in the LCMS actively work to celebrate our unity in Christ within our fellowship—  
42 which expresses itself in sacrificial love, in bearing with one another, and in seeking the good of the  
43 whole body of Christ; such love being evident in circuit forums, circuit meetings, Harvest Network  
44 gatherings, and other places where we walk together; and be it further  
45

46 **Resolved**, That the LCMS emphasize, multi-cultural ministry within the local context; that we  
47 celebrate and support local congregations and ministries (RSOs?) engaged in “all nations” ministry  
48 among us; and that we increase support for the training of local multiethnic ministry though  
49 organizations such as St. Louis Seminary’s Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology, the Spanish  
50 Institute, District lay deacon training programs for ethnic ministries, and for the equipping of

1 evangelists (all of us) for the clear proclamation of the Gospel in our local communities; and be it  
2 finally  
3

4 ***Resolved,*** That this triennial mission and ministry emphasis be submitted to the national convention  
5 of the LCMS, urging the Synod to focus its work on 1) the proclamation of the Gospel, 2) walking  
6 together in love and trust, and 3) supporting ethnic and multicultural ministry within our own local  
7 context.  
8

9 Submitted by: Floor Committee #4 – Mission  
10 Rev. Craig Bickel, Chairman

COMMITTEE NAME: Mission  
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-05A  
SUBJECT: To Encourage Prayer, Partnership, and Participation in  
International Mission  
REFERENCE: Overtures 4-01 and 4-04

**WHEREAS**, The Michigan District is committed to the four outcomes—Great Commission, Great Compassion, Healthy Congregations, and Healthy Church Workers—which begin with Christ’s call to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19); and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan District congregations have demonstrated faithful generosity through efforts like the *Here We Stand* campaign, which provided over \$1.25 million to missionary endeavors, showing the value of reliable and ongoing support for flourishing mission efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, Scripture exhorts believers to “pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matt. 9:38) and to be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3); and

**WHEREAS**, Congregations of the Michigan District partner with Lutheran church ministries around the world, such as with Lutheran Church of Uganda through Women of the Pearl, MOST Ministries, LAMP, and the LCMS mission in Puerto Rico through the *Foro* model (<https://international.lcms.org/events-foros/>); therefore be it

**Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention commend our Gospel partnership with the Lutheran churches in the world to all congregations as a worthy focus for prayer and thanksgiving in corporate worship; and be it further

**Resolved**, That the District encourage congregations to commit to praying regularly for the Lord to raise up pastors and to prosper the ministry of the Lutheran churches in the world, and to consider supporting their works through their time, talents, and treasures as the Spirit moves them; and be it further

**Resolved**, That the Michigan District adopt the synodically commended practice of participation in forums, such as the Latin American *Foro*, committing to regular support, including a financial commitment and the appointment of a District representative (the President or his designee) to attend their gatherings; and be it further

**Resolved**, That the District consider how the *Foro* model could be employed to create partnerships between congregations in Michigan and the mission field, and inspire Michigan District members to mission at home and abroad; and be it further

**Resolved**, That the Michigan District Board of Directors evaluate the need for the next capital campaign to fund international ministries that the District sees as important; and be it further

**Resolved**, That the District encourage congregations to prayerfully explore the *Foro* model as a framework for deepening their connection to the global mission of the Church through financial support and personal involvement; and be it finally

**Resolved**, That the Michigan District memorialize the LCMS in convention to likewise support the Lutheran churches in the world and commend *Foro*-based mission partnerships across the Synod.

Submitted by: Floor Committee #4 – Mission  
Rev. Craig Bickel, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-06B  
3 SUBJECT: To Condemn the False Teachings of the "Stone  
4 Choir"  
5 REFERENCE: Overture 2-01  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Twitter/X personalities Corey J. Mahler (@CoreyJMahler) and Ryan "Woe" Dumperth  
9 (@treblewoe) began releasing episodes of the Stone Choir podcast on Oct. 19, 2022, to tackle  
10 issues relevant to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) that, in their judgment, the  
11 pastors and leadership of the LCMS were not addressing, leaving Mahler and Dumperth to  
12 function as "the very stones" who must "cry out" because the clergy are silent (Luke 19:40); and  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, These issues on which the pastors and leadership of the LCMS are accused by the Stone  
15 Choir hosts of remaining silent include the ostensible necessity of the reintroduction of racial  
16 segregation; the ostensible sinfulness of interracial marriage; the ostensibly pernicious nature of the  
17 Jewish race today; and the ostensibly fictitious nature of the Jewish Holocaust perpetrated by the  
18 National Socialists during World War II; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, None of Stone Choir's positions on these aforementioned issues is taught in Holy Scripture,  
21 and indeed their positions on these issues cause great offense to many Christians of good will; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, Stone Choir hosts Mahler and Dumperth are active on Twitter/X, and Stone Choir listeners  
24 are likely to be influenced not only by what Mahler and Dumperth teach on the Stone Choir podcast,  
25 but also by what they post on Twitter/X; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, On Twitter/X, Corey Mahler and Dumperth, among other offensive behaviors, openly  
28 praise Adolf Hitler, call for the genocide or deportation of Jews, Muslims, and Blacks from the  
29 United States, and condemn as sin the practice of interracial marriage and adoption, causing great  
30 offense to Christian consciences; and  
31

32 **WHEREAS**, Through their activity on the Stone Choir podcast and on Twitter/X, Mahler and Dumnperth  
33 have sought to associate confessional Lutheranism with devotion to Adolf Hitler, opposition to the  
34 Jewish race, and a desire for segregation of Blacks from white society; and  
35

36 **WHEREAS**, Mahler and Dumperth have publicly denounced pastors of the LCMS as "either apostate or  
37 derelict" and on their podcast and on Twitter/X have attempted to turn their listeners against their  
38 pastors; and  
39

40 **WHEREAS**, Mahler is excommunicated and therefore under discipline and Dumperth is no longer a  
41 member of an LCMS congregation and is therefore beyond the reach of church discipline, yet both  
42 continue to challenge the doctrine and teaching of the LCMS; therefore be it  
43

44 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention publicly condemn the teachings of the Stone Choir  
45 podcast and its hosts, for the offense they cause by their public devotion to Adolf Hitler, their stirring  
46 up of antipathy toward our Jewish and Black neighbors, their denunciation as sin of that which God  
47 has not called sin, and their open hostility toward the pastors and leadership of the LCMS; and be it  
48 further  
49

50 **Resolved**, That the laity of the Michigan District be warned against the Stone Choir podcast and its  
51 hosts, and that the pastors of the Michigan District be encouraged to admonish members of their

1 congregations whose approval of such racist and anti-Semitic beliefs has become known; and be it  
2 further  
3

4 ***Resolved,*** That pastors and teachers of the Michigan District be encouraged to examine the  
5 teachings of Stone Choir according to the norm of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions,  
6 demonstrating from these clear and firm testimonies how Stone Choir is in error; and pastors and  
7 teachers of the Michigan District acknowledge that these teachings violate the Fifth Commandment;  
8 and be it further  
9

10 ***Resolved,*** That pastors and teachers of the Michigan District be encouraged to teach the truth of  
11 God's Word that all human creatures of all nations, tribes, languages, and peoples are made in  
12 God's image and redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus, and that pastors and teachers  
13 would use Synod and District resources that promote the same; and be it finally  
14

15 ***Resolved,*** That the LCMS in convention be memorialized to condemn the teachings of the Stone Choir  
16 podcast and its current hosts, and to admonish pastors and teachers who promote the same.  
17

18 Submitted by: Committee #2 – Doctrine  
19 Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski, Chairman

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Mission  
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-04B  
3 SUBJECT: A Triennial Mission and Ministry Emphasis on the Clear  
4 Proclamation of the Gospel, Unity in Christ, and Multicultural  
5 Ministry  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, “the District convention shall, through the delegate vote, forward to the national  
9 convention a list of two or three triennial mission and ministry emphases for consideration by the  
10 national convention” (Bylaw 4.2.1(d)); and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Romans 1:16 calls us to proclaim the Gospel, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel,  
13 because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then  
14 to the Gentile”; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, The *Apology of the Augsburg Confession* Article IV, on Justification, confesses the central  
17 teaching of the Gospel, namely, that we are justified by grace through faith in Christ alone; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, Part II, Article I of the *Smalcald Articles* states, “The first and chief article is this: That  
20 Jesus Christ, our God and Lord, died for our sins and was raised again for our justification” (Romans  
21 4:25); and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, Jesus commands His people, “Love on another. As I have loved you, so you must love one  
24 another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John  
25 13:34,35); and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, We should celebrate the unity we have in Christ; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS has historically emphasized proclaiming the clear and compelling Gospel to all  
30 people, without distinction; and  
31

32 **WHEREAS**, The local Church is beautifully diverse in language, ethnicity, and life experiences  
33 Michigan District first “All Nations” gathering in the spring of this year; and  
34

35 **WHEREAS**, There is a great need for a strengthened LCMS multicultural ministry in the local context;  
36 therefore be it  
37

38 **Resolved**, That the LCMS boldly and faithfully proclaims the Gospel clearly, confidently, and joyfully in  
39 all its purity, and be it further  
40

41 **Resolved**, That we in the LCMS actively work to celebrate our unity in Christ within our fellowship—  
42 which expresses itself in sacrificial love, in bearing with one another, and in seeking the good of the  
43 whole body of Christ; such love being evident in circuit forums, circuit meetings, Harvest Network  
44 gatherings, and other places where we walk together; and be it further  
45

46 **Resolved**, That the LCMS emphasize, multi-cultural ministry within the local context; that we  
47 celebrate and support local congregations and Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) engaged in  
48 “all nations” ministry among us; and that we increase support for the training of local multiethnic  
49 ministry through organizations such as St. Louis Seminary’s Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology,  
50 the Spanish Institute, District lay deacon training programs for ethnic ministries, and for the



1 equipping of evangelists (all of us) for the clear proclamation of the Gospel in our local communities;  
2 and be it finally  
3

4 ***Resolved,*** That this triennial mission and ministry emphasis be submitted to the national convention  
5 of the LCMS, urging the Synod to focus its work on 1) the proclamation of the Gospel, 2) walking  
6 together in love and trust, and 3) supporting ethnic and multicultural ministry within our own local  
7 context.  
8

9 Submitted by: Floor Committee #4 – Mission  
10 Rev. Craig Bickel, Chairman