

1 **OVERTURE: 1-11**

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3 **SUBJECT:** TO APPROVE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE SECOND RESTATED ARTICLES OF  
4 INCORPORATION OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN  
5 CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD, AND TO THEN APPROVE THE RESULTING REVISED  
6 ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT  
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8 **Background:** The 2016 Convention of the Synod adopted resolutions which require its member Districts  
9 to amend the language in their governing documents regarding the District's relationship  
10 to the Synod, asset disposition, and prior approval of the Commission on Constitutional  
11 Matters (CCM) in amending such documents. Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.6 states requirements  
12 for relationship and asset disposition language. Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 requires prior  
13 review, by the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) of the Synod, of any  
14 amendments to the articles and bylaws of the Districts of the Synod. This requirement has  
15 been in place in the *Handbook* of the Synod for a number of years. However, due to Synod  
16 Convention action in 2016 (Resolution 11-15A), the new subparagraph [b] under Bylaw  
17 3.9.2.2.3 allows for those prior-approved amendments to be modified during a convention  
18 and then adopted, subject to subsequent approval of the CCM. Should the CCM not  
19 approve the amendments as adopted, the District Board of Directors is empowered, after  
20 the convention and by the District's Board of Directors two-thirds vote, to modify the  
21 amendments to the satisfaction of the CCM and to adopt them.  
22

23 **WHEREAS,** It is the desire and the obligation of The South Dakota District to honor LCMS convention  
24 resolutions and the resulting bylaw changes to the *Handbook* of the Synod, including those  
25 that pertain to the governing documents of LCMS entities (LCMS Bylaw 1.3.6; 2<sup>nd</sup> Restated  
26 Articles of Incorporation of The South Dakota District, Article III.C.), AND  
27

28 **WHEREAS,** It is also the desire and obligation of The South Dakota District to honor the laws of the  
29 State of South Dakota as a non-profit organization in the state (Romans 13:1-5), AND  
30

31 **WHEREAS,** These suggested amendments have been adopted by the District Board of Directors in  
32 their meeting of December 11, 2017, after having received prior approval by the Synod's  
33 Commission on Constitutional Matters in their meeting of September 15-16, 2017 (LCMS  
34 Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3; 4.5.1.d), THEREFORE LET IT BE  
35

36 **RESOLVED:** That Articles IX, X, and XI of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Restated Articles of The South Dakota District of The  
37 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be amended and adopted as follows:  
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39 [PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING]

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41 [BRACKETS ARE USED FOR EXPLANATIONS ONLY; THIS MATERIAL IS NOT PART OF THE  
42 AMENDMENTS.]  
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45 **ARTICLE IX**

46 **RELATIONSHIP TO THE SYNOD**

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48 This corporation, as part of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, acknowledges its  
49 allegiance to the Synod and to the convention of the Synod. It submits to the authority of the  
50 Synod and the convention. It accedes, recognizes, and accepts the doctrine taught and  
51 practiced in the Synod (Art. II), ~~and also the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, and Bylaws~~  
52 ~~of the Synod, as currently in effect and as may hereafter be amended from time to time. All~~

53 provisions of this corporation's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are subject to the  
54 provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the Synod in convention.

- 55  
56 ~~A. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the organizational documents of~~  
57 ~~this corporation and the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, or Bylaws of the Synod,~~  
58 ~~as may hereafter be amended from time to time, the Articles, Constitution, or Bylaws~~  
59 ~~of the Synod shall control and govern.~~  
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61 ~~B. This provision may not be altered or deleted without the approval of the Synod in~~  
62 ~~convention or the Board of Directors of the Synod.~~

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64 [NOTE: The following, formerly point "C," becomes a second paragraph in Article IX.]  
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66 ~~C. Neither The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod nor The Lutheran Church—Missouri~~  
67 ~~Synod Incorporated is responsible for the debts or other obligation of this corporation nor~~  
68 ~~do they represent or endorse the fiscal solvency of this corporation.~~  
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## 72 **ARTICLE X**

### 73 **DISSOLUTION**

- 74 ~~A. In the event this corporation is dissolved or its existence otherwise terminates or is~~  
75 ~~terminated, after the payment of the debts of the corporation, all right, title, and interest~~  
76 ~~in and to its property, whether tangible or intangible and whether real or personal, shall~~  
77 ~~thereupon automatically vest in or be transferred to the Synod, and this corporation~~  
78 ~~covenants and agrees to execute and deliver to the Synod such documents and~~  
79 ~~instruments and to take such other and further actions as the Synod may deem~~  
80 ~~reasonably necessary or desirable, in order to evidence and give full effect to the~~  
81 ~~foregoing. This provision may not be altered or deleted without the approval of the~~  
82 ~~Synod in convention or the Board of Directors of the Synod.~~  
83  
84 A. In the event of dissolution, other than by direction from the Synod in convention, the  
85 assets of this corporation, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred, consistent with  
86 applicable state and federal laws, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as may  
87 be more specifically described in the Bylaws of this corporation.  
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89 B. If, however, on the date of such proposed dissolution, The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
90 Synod, a Missouri Corporation, or its successor, is no longer in existence, the assets  
91 of this corporation may distributed to any other Section 501(C)(3) organization as  
92 designated by the District's Board of Directors.  
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## 94 **ARTICLE XI**

### 95 **AMENDMENTS**

96 Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any time at a regularly called  
97 meeting of this corporation by a majority of the voting delegates present at such meeting,  
98 provided such amendments are not inconsistent with the Constitution or the laws of the United  
99 States or the State of South Dakota or the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—  
100 Missouri Synod, and with prior approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the  
101 Synod. However, District Conventions are intended as the principal legislative assemblies for  
102 amendment of Articles of Incorporation.

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- Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation shall be made in the following manner:
- A. Unless an amendment is proposed directly by the members, the Board of Directors shall adopt a Resolution setting forth the proposed amendment and directing that it be submitted to a vote at a meeting of members entitled to vote thereon, after obtaining prior approval of the Synod’s Commission on Constitutional Matters.
  - B. Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and setting forth the proposed amendment or a summary of the changes to be effected thereby shall be given to each member entitled to vote at such meeting not less than ten nor more than fifty days before the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail.
  - C. If the members adopt a Resolution setting forth a proposed amendment, written notice shall also be provided to the Board of Directors, as provided above.
  - D. The proposed amendment shall be adopted upon receiving at least a majority of the votes which members present at such meeting are entitled to cast after obtaining prior approval of the Synod’s Commission on Constitutional Matters.
  - E. The District in convention may vote to amend its articles or bylaws provided the resolution is contingent on approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended articles or bylaws become effective immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not approve the adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify the amendments to comply with the Commission on Constitutional Matters’ requirements upon their two-thirds vote.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Restated Articles of Incorporation  
of The South Dakota District**

**of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**

Revised by the 2018 Convention of the District.

**ARTICLE I**

**NAME**

The name of the corporation shall be “THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD.”

**ARTICLE II**

**PERIOD OF DURATION**

The period of duration of this corporation is perpetual.

**ARTICLE III**

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**OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES**

This corporation is formed for the following objectives and purposes:

- A. To unite in a corporate body the congregations, and ordained and commissioned ministers of religion, who are members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, situated or residing within the geographical boundaries of The South Dakota District; and to perpetuate the good work of disseminating the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.
  
- B. To carry out within the South Dakota District the objectives of The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod (The Synod), to-wit:
  - 1. Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; I Cor. 1:10), work through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;
  - 2. Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world;
  - 3. Recruit and train pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth;
  - 4. Provide opportunities through which its members may express their Christian concern, love, and compassion in meeting human needs;
  - 5. Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish agencies of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools and to support Synodical colleges, universities, and seminaries;
  - 6. Aid congregations by providing a variety of resources and opportunities for recognizing, promoting, expressing, conserving, and defending their confessional unity in the true faith;
  - 7. Encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith;
  - 8. Provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers of the Synod in the performance of their official duties;
  - 9. Provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights; and
  - 10. Aid in providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers, and their families in the event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death.
  
- C. As a District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod to carry out Synodical resolutions affecting the District.
  
- D. To purchase or otherwise acquire, own, hold, use, lease (as lessee or lessor), pledge, invest in, encumber, exchange, transfer, and dispose of real or personal property.

- 175 E. To borrow money, to issue, sell, or pledge its obligations, notes, bonds, and other evidences  
176 of indebtedness, and to mortgage or pledge its property to secure the payment thereof.
- 177 F. To receive by gift, devise, bequest, or otherwise any money or other property absolute or in  
178 trust.
- 179 G. To have such powers as are permitted to it under the Statutes of the State of South Dakota,  
180 as from time to time amended, except that said corporation shall be organized and operated  
181 exclusively for the purposes specified in and qualified under Section 501 (C) (3) of the  
182 Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as the same may hereafter be amended and  
183 supplemented, and that said corporation shall operate exclusively for religious, educational,  
184 charitable, and other non-profitable purposes, no part of the net earnings of which inures to  
185 the benefit of any member. This corporation is specifically restricted to engage otherwise  
186 than as an insubstantial part of its activities, in activities which are in furtherance of one or  
187 more of the exempt purposes set out for such exempt organizations under the Internal  
188 Revenue Code.

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#### ARTICLE IV

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#### MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING PRIVILEGE

- 191 A. Membership: The membership of this corporation is comprised of the congregations  
192 and the ordained and commissioned ministers of religion of The Lutheran Church—  
193 Missouri Synod who have affiliated with this District.
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- 195 B. Voting Members: At the meetings of the District, every congregation or parish is  
196 entitled to two votes: one cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate. These  
197 delegates shall be accredited, in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of The  
198 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the District.
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- 200 C. Advisory Delegates: All nonvoting ordained and commissioned ministers who are  
201 members of the Synod within the District shall serve as advisory delegates. Advisory  
202 delegates are entitled to voice and vote on a floor committee, if appointed, and to voice  
203 in the District Convention. Advisory delegates are expected to attend the District  
204 Conventions, unless excused in accordance with the Bylaws.

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#### ARTICLE V

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#### MEETINGS

- 209 A. An annual meeting of the members shall be held as may be provided by the Bylaws.  
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- 211 B. This corporation shall have a District Convention, in the years prescribed by the  
212 Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The District  
213 Convention may be considered an annual meeting. District Conventions are the  
214 principal legislative assemblies, which amend the District's Articles of Incorporation  
215 and Bylaws, consider and take action on reports and overtures, and handle  
216 appropriate appeals.
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- 218 C. Special meetings may be called in such manner as may be provided by the Synod or,  
219 if a meeting is necessary or advisable under South Dakota state law, as provided in  
220 this corporation's Bylaws.

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## ARTICLE VI

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### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS: OFFICERS**

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A. The Board of Directors, of not less than three, shall be constituted as specified in the Bylaws and shall be elected by ballot by the voting delegates at that District Convention called for such purpose in the Bylaws of this corporation.

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B. The officers of this corporation shall consist of a president, vice-presidents as specified by the Bylaws of this corporation, a secretary, a treasurer and such other officers as Bylaws may identify and shall be elected by ballot by the voting delegates at that District Convention called for such purpose in the Bylaws.

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C. The duties of officers and directors and such other regulations and prohibitions regarding the qualifications of officers, as may be deemed necessary or expedient are or may be provided for in the Bylaws.

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D. The property and affairs of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod shall be managed by the Board of Directors, which may exercise all the powers granted it in its efforts to realize the objectives of this organization, subject to the Bylaws of said corporation and the decision of its members at Convention or other meetings assembled.

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## ARTICLE VII

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### **INDEBTEDNESS: LIABILITY**

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A. The highest amount of indebtedness which this corporation shall incur shall in no event exceed the value of the assets owned by this corporation.

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B. All indebtedness contracted by this corporation shall be made and concurred in by the President and Treasurer of this corporation, and the President and Secretary of this corporation shall make all conveyances of real estate, and shall execute all encumbrance, if any, of property owned by this corporation, and shall likewise release any and all mortgages and liens now existing or hereafter created in favor of this corporation.

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C. Private property of the members of this corporation shall not be subject to the payment of the corporate debts but shall be exempt from all liability therefore.

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## ARTICLE VIII

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### **BYLAWS**

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A. The Constitution of the Synod shall be a part of this corporation's Bylaws and the Bylaws of the Synod shall be primarily the Bylaws of this corporation.

- 260 B. This corporation may adopt additional Bylaws and such rules and regulations for its  
261 own conduct as are not in conflict with these Articles of Incorporation, the laws of the  
262 State of South Dakota, or the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod.  
263 These Bylaws and regulations and any subsequent changes shall be submitted to the  
264 Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters for review and approval.  
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- 266 C. Such additional Bylaws shall be adopted, altered, amended or repealed by a majority  
267 vote of the voting delegates present in the District Convention or at any special District  
268 meeting. However, District Conventions are intended as the principal legislative  
269 assemblies for amendment of the Bylaws.  
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## ARTICLE IX

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### RELATIONSHIP TO THE SYNOD

275

276 This corporation, as part of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, acknowledges its  
277 allegiance to the Synod and to the convention of the Synod. It submits to the authority of the  
278 Synod and the convention. It accedes, recognizes, and accepts the doctrine taught and  
279 practiced in the Synod (Art. II). All provisions of this corporation's Articles of Incorporation and  
280 Bylaws are subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the resolutions of the  
281 Synod in convention.  
282

283

284 Neither The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod nor The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
285 Incorporated is responsible for the debts or other obligation of this corporation nor do they  
286 represent or endorse the fiscal solvency of this corporation.  
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## ARTICLE X

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### DISSOLUTION

- 290 A. In the event of dissolution, other than by direction from the Synod in convention, the  
291 assets of this corporation, subject to its liabilities, shall be transferred, consistent with  
292 applicable state and federal laws, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as may  
293 be more specifically described in the Bylaws of this corporation.  
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- 295 B. If, however, on the date of such proposed dissolution, The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
296 Synod, a Missouri Corporation, or its successor, is no longer in existence, the assets  
297 of this corporation may distributed to any other Section 501(C)(3) organization as  
298 designated by the District's Board of Directors.  
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## ARTICLE XI

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### AMENDMENTS

303 Amendments to these Articles of Incorporation may be made at any time at a regularly called  
304 meeting of this corporation by a majority of the voting delegates present at such meeting,

305 provided such amendments are not inconsistent with the Constitution or the laws of the United  
306 States or the State of South Dakota or the Constitution or Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—  
307 Missouri Synod, and with prior approval of the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the  
308 Synod. However, District Conventions are intended as the principal legislative assemblies for  
309 amendment of Articles of Incorporation.  
310

311 Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation shall be made in the following manner:

312 A. Unless an amendment is proposed directly by the members, the Board of Directors shall adopt  
313 a Resolution setting forth the proposed amendment and directing that it be submitted to a vote  
314 at a meeting of members entitled to vote thereon, after obtaining prior approval of the Synod's  
315 Commission on Constitutional Matters.

316 B. Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and setting forth the  
317 proposed amendment or a summary of the changes to be effected thereby shall be given to  
318 each member entitled to vote at such meeting not less than ten nor more than fifty days before  
319 the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail.

320 C. If the members adopt a Resolution setting forth a proposed amendment, written notice shall also  
321 be provided to the Board of Directors, as provided above.

322 D. The proposed amendment shall be adopted upon receiving at least a majority of the votes which  
323 members present at such meeting are entitled to cast after obtaining prior approval of the  
324 Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters.

325 E. The District in convention may vote to amend its articles or bylaws provided the resolution is  
326 contingent on approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended articles or  
327 bylaws become effective immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission on  
328 Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not approve the  
329 adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify the amendments to comply with  
330 the Commission on Constitutional Matters' requirements upon their two-thirds vote.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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The Board of Directors of  
The South Dakota District LCMS

1 **OVERTURE: 1-12**

2 **SUBJECT:** TO APPROVE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA  
3 DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
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5 **RATIONALE:** Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 requires prior review, by the Commission on Constitutional Matters  
6 (CCM) of the Synod, of any amendments to the articles and bylaws of the Districts of the  
7 Synod. This requirement has been in place in the *Handbook* of the Synod for a number of  
8 years. However, due to Synod Convention action in 2016 (Resolution 11-15A), the new  
9 subparagraph [b] under Bylaw 3.9.2.2.3 allows for those prior-approved amendments to be  
10 modified during a convention and then adopted, subject to subsequent approval of the  
11 CCM. Should the CCM not approve the amendments as adopted, the District Board of  
12 Directors is empowered, after the convention and by the District Board of Directors two-  
13 thirds vote, to modify the amendments to the satisfaction of the CCM and to adopt them.  
14 This prior review and approval of the District's bylaws by the CCM is clarified in the  
15 proposed changes to Section VI (Amendments) of these bylaws. As the CCM did its prior  
16 review of Section VI of the District's bylaws, the Commission found other details in our  
17 bylaws that they recommended be changed. These are largely issues of nomenclature,  
18 which this Convention must now consider.  
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20 **WHEREAS,** It is the desire and the obligation of The South Dakota District to honor LCMS convention  
21 resolutions and the resulting bylaw changes to the *Handbook* of the Synod, including those  
22 that pertain to the governing documents of LCMS entities (LCMS Bylaw 1.3.6; 2<sup>nd</sup> Restated  
23 Articles of Incorporation of The South Dakota District, Article III.C.), AND  
24

25 **WHEREAS,** These suggested amendments have been adopted by the District Board of Directors in  
26 their meeting of December 11, 2017, after having received prior approval by the Synod's  
27 Commission on Constitutional Matters in their meeting of September 15-16, 2017 (LCMS  
28 Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3; 4.5.1.c), THEREFORE LET IT BE  
29

30 **RESOLVED:** That the Bylaws of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be  
31 amended and adopted as follows:  
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33 [PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING]  
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35 **BYLAWS GOVERNING THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT**

36 **OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD**

37 **I. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

38 1.01 Membership

39 Members of the Board of Directors shall each be a member of a voting congregation of the  
40 District and shall be the following:

- 41 a. The President who shall be ~~a pastor~~ an ordained minister of the Synod.  
42 b. Two Vice-Presidents who shall be ~~pastors~~ ordained ministers of the Synod.  
43 c. The Secretary who shall be ~~a pastor~~ an ordained minister of the Synod.

- 44                           d. The Treasurer who shall be a layman
- 45                           e. Two additional laymen from the District at Large.
- 46                   1.03    Parish Limitations
- 47                           a. No more than one member of a parish (parish defined as one or more congregations who  
48                                           are served jointly by a called pastor) shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors.
- 49                   1.05    Succession to Office
- 50                           a. All elected members of the Board of Directors, except the President, the First Vice-  
51                                           President, and the Treasurer, may succeed themselves to the same office only once after  
52                                           having served one full term.
- 53                           b. The President, First Vice-President, and Treasurer are not limited as to tenure of office.
- 54                   1.07    Vacancies
- 55                           a. A vacancy on the Board of Directors occurs as soon as a member ceases to be a member  
56                                           of a voting congregation of the District; or he no longer resides within the geographic  
57                                           boundaries of the District.
- 58                           b. Vacancies may be filled until the next regular election by the affirmative vote of a majority  
59                                           of the remaining Directors. A Director so appointed by the Board to fill the vacancy shall  
60                                           be appointed to the unexpired term of his predecessor in office.
- 61                   1.11    Organization
- 62                           a. The Board of Directors shall elect or appoint its own Chairman, Vice-Chairman and such  
63                                           other officers and committees of the Board as may be necessary.
- 64                   1.15    General Duties
- 65                           a. The property and affairs of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri  
66                                           Synod, shall be managed by the Board of Directors which may exercise all the powers  
67                                           granted in its efforts to realize the objectives of this organization, subject to the Bylaws of  
68                                           said corporation, and the decision of its members at Convention or other meetings  
69                                           assembled.
- 70                   1.17    Duties of Officers
- 71                           a. The President shall perform the duties as prescribed in Section II, 2.05 of these Bylaws.
- 72                           b. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of District Conventions for the permanent  
73                                           records of the District and shall perform such other duties as are in keeping with his office.  
74                                           He, together with the President, shall make and concur in conveyances of real estate, and  
75                                           execute all encumbrance, if any, of property owned by said corporation, and shall likewise  
76                                           release any and all mortgages and liens now existing or hereafter created in favor of said  
77                                           corporation.

78 c. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt and disbursement of all monies of the  
79 District in keeping with sound modernized accounting procedures. He, together with the  
80 President, shall make and concur in all indebtedness contracts by the District. The  
81 Treasurer shall confer with the Business Manager of the Board on all fiscal transactions  
82 of the District and the Synod.

83 d. Additional duties and guidelines not inconsistent herewith shall be prescribed and  
84 provided by the Board of Directors.

85 1.21 Meetings

86 a. The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of four times a year. A majority of the Board  
87 shall constitute a quorum, provided that all members have been duly notified as to the  
88 time and place of the meeting. Generally accepted rules of parliamentary procedure  
89 administered in Christian love shall prevail.

90 1.25 Responsibility

91 a. The Board of Directors shall be responsible to the District for its official actions and shall  
92 render a report of its activities to the District Convention or as often as the District may call  
93 upon it to do so.

94 b. The Board of Directors shall consult and plan with the Executive Secretary regarding all  
95 matters of program development, especially in the area of missions, stewardship and  
96 education, and the Business Manager regarding financial development.

97 c. The setting of the budget shall be done by the Board of Directors taking into consideration  
98 the recommendations of the Planning Process of the District.

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101 1.27 Relationship with Synod

102 a. Where operating committees exist they shall cooperate with the respective Board of the  
103 Synod and ordinarily shall be represented at their conferences.

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105 **III. DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

106 2.01 Office

107 a. The Office of President shall be a full-time position.

108 2.05 Duties (In keeping with the spirit of Articles XI and XII of the Constitution of the Synod, the  
109 following be regarded as the definition of the Office of District President:)

110 a. Administration The District President is the chief executive officer of the District. He shall  
111 be responsible for:

- 112 (1) Supervision and coordination, together with the Board of Directors, the work of all  
113 committees and personnel of the District.
- 114 (2) Making and concurrence of all indebtedness of the District, in conjunction with the  
115 Treasurer.
- 116 (3) All conveyances of real estate, and the execution of all encumbrance, if any, of  
117 property owned by said corporation, and shall likewise release any and all mortgages  
118 and liens now existing or hereafter created in favor of said corporation, in conjunction  
119 with the Secretary.
- 120 b. Counseling The District President should serve as counselor to the brethren in the ministry  
121 to assist them in developing their professional, intellectual and spiritual life.
- 122 c. Creative Planning The District President shall keep abreast of developments affecting the  
123 church and recommend suitable action to meet the challenges of our day.
- 124 d. Representation The District President should regard himself as the representative  
125 spokesman of the constituency of The South Dakota District wherever and whenever the  
126 opportunity presents itself, in order that the true image of church life in the District may be  
127 given.
- 128 e. He shall not serve a congregation as its Vacancy Pastor.

129 2.07 Election

- 130 a. His election shall conform to Section V of these Bylaws. The District Board of Directors shall  
131 present his Diploma of Election. His term of office shall be three years. He may succeed  
132 himself without limitation as to terms.

133

134 2.09 Vacancy in Office

- 135 a. If the President is unable to serve because of illness or disability, or should he decline the  
136 Diploma of Election offered pursuant to his election, the duties of his office shall be assumed  
137 by the First Vice-President, as herein provided. Disability or illness sufficient to cause a  
138 vacancy shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 139 b. In the event of vacancy as defined herein, the First Vice-President shall immediately assume  
140 the duties of the President on a part-time basis. If the unexpired term of the President is  
141 more than a calendar year and the vacancy is filled by the First Vice-President who was  
142 elected to his office, the same Vice-President may elect to resign his pastorate and become  
143 full-time President. In all other cases, the Vice-President assuming the duties of the Office  
144 of the President shall serve on a part-time basis until the next regular Convention of the  
145 District, when a full-time President shall be elected to the unexpired term.

146 2.11 Salary

- 147 a. The initial salary of the President shall be set by the Convention on the recommendation of  
148 the Board of Directors.

149                    b. The Board of Directors shall make an annual review of the salary and compensation and  
150                    may adjust the same.

151                    2.15 Miscellaneous

152                    a. The Board of Directors shall determine the extent of vacation, leaves of absences and such  
153                    activities of the President as are not specified in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod  
154                    and the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of this corporation.

155                    **III. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

156                    3.01 Appointment and Responsibility

157                    a. The Executive Secretary of the Board is appointed by the Board of Directors with the  
158                    approval of the then District President, to be its Executive Officer, and as such shall be under  
159                    its supervision. The Board of Directors shall provide him with a job description and guideline  
160                    of his duties.

161                    3.03 Term of Office

162                    a. His term of office shall be for three years, reckoned from the first regular meeting of the  
163                    Board of Directors, following an election Convention.

164                    **IV. BUSINESS MANAGER**

165                    4.01 Appointment and Responsibility

166                    a. The Business Manager of the Board is appointed by the Board of Directors to be its Fiscal  
167                    Officer, and as such shall be under its supervision. The Board of Directors shall provide him  
168                    with a job description and guidelines of his duties.

169                    4.03 Term of Office

170                    a. His term of office shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors and his performance shall  
171                    be examined periodically on a merit basis.

172                    **V. ELECTION PROCEDURE**

173                    5.01 Time of Election and Term of Office

174                    a. The President, Vice-Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the two laymen on the  
175                    Board of Directors shall be elected in the District Convention, ~~following the regular election~~  
176                    ~~of the officers of the Synod.~~

177                    b. All officers and members of the Board of Directors shall serve for terms of three years or  
178                    until their successors shall have qualified.

179                    5.03 Order of Election

180                    a. The order for electing District officers shall be as follows:

181                    1. President

- 182 2. Vice-Presidents
- 183 3. Secretary
- 184 4. Treasurer
- 185 5. Two Laymen for Board of Directors
- 186 6. Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors
- 187 7. District Member of Synodical Nominating Committee (as required)
- 188 8. Other committees (as necessary).

189

190 5.05 Nominations and Election of President and Vice-Presidents

191 a. Nominations for the Office of President of the District shall be made in the following manner:

- 192 1. Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one ~~clergyman~~ ordained minister  
193 from the clergy roster of the Synod as a candidate for President.
- 194 2. The Secretary of the District shall mail to each voting congregation of the District ballots  
195 for nominating these candidates.
- 196 3. Each nominating ballot shall be signed by the President and the Secretary of the voting  
197 congregations and shall be sent to the Secretary of the District not later than two months  
198 prior to the opening date of the Convention.
- 199 4. The Secretary of the District together with the Chairman of the Committee on  
200 Nominations shall tabulate the nominations and shall report to the Convention by  
201 means of the Convention's manual the names of all ~~clergymen~~ ordained ministers who  
202 have received at least five nominating votes for the Office of President.

203 b. Candidates for the Office of President

- 204 1. Candidates for the Office of President shall be in each instance the  
205 three ~~clergymen~~ ordained ministers receiving the highest number of votes in the  
206 nominating ballots of the congregations.
- 207 2. The Secretary of the District shall notify each candidate and shall secure his approval  
208 in writing, within 10 days, for inclusion of his name on the convention ballot and indicate  
209 willingness to serve if elected.
- 210 3. In the event of the death, declination, or unavailability of any candidate, the nominee  
211 having the next highest number of votes shall become a candidate.
- 212 4. In the event of a tie for the third position among the candidates, all names involved in  
213 the tie shall be listed as candidates.

214 5. The Secretary of the District shall publish in the Convention Manual brief biographies of  
215 the three candidates for President giving adequate information on each candidate. This  
216 report shall contain such pertinent information as age, residence, number of years in  
217 the District, present position, District or Synodical offices previously held, year of  
218 ordination, former pastorates, involvement in community, government, or inter-church  
219 affairs, and any other specific experience and qualification for the office.

220 6. The Convention shall have the right to alter each slate at the proper time by  
221 amendment. Any delegate making a nomination from the floor shall have secured prior  
222 written consent of the candidate whom he wishes to nominate. Such delegate shall  
223 immediately submit to the Secretary of the District this document and written pertinent  
224 information concerning his nominee as detailed in 5.05 b.5.

225

226 c. Election of President

- 227 1. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates for President.
- 228 2. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
- 229 3. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the two candidates receiving the  
230 highest number of votes shall be retained on the ballot, and another vote shall be taken.

231 d. Election of Vice-Presidents

232 1. After the election of the President, the Judge of Elections shall call for nominations for  
233 District Vice-Presidents. He shall distribute blank ballots on which each  
234 voting ~~pastor~~ ordained minister and each voting lay delegate shall write the name of a  
235 ~~pastor~~ ordained minister who is a member of a voting congregation in the District. After  
236 the result of the nominating ballot has been announced, the Convention decides the  
237 number of candidates to be placed on the slate election ballot. A minimum of two  
238 candidates must be on the election ballots for Vice-Presidents. Ballots shall then be  
239 distributed and the election of the Vice-Presidents shall proceed without delay.

240 5.07 Election of ~~Counselors~~ Circuit Visitors

241 a. The process for the election of Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors by District Conventions and the  
242 appointment of Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors when vacancies occur shall be the process  
243 established by the Bylaws of the Synod, as from time to time promulgated by the Synod and  
244 incorporated herein by this reference.

245 5.09 Elections of Other Officers

246 a. Elections of all officers other than District President, Vice-Presidents, and  
247 Circuit ~~Counselors~~ Visitors shall be from the slate of candidates developed by the  
248 Committee on Nominations or as otherwise specified.

249 b. Names of candidates are to be placed on the slate in alphabetical order without distinctive  
250 marks, subject to approval by the Convention. Additional candidates may be placed in  
251 nomination by the Convention, such nominations to include the written consent of the  
252 nominee to serve.

- 253 c. A majority of all votes cast (disregarding voided ballots) shall be required to elect.
- 254 d. In the event that no candidate receives the required majority vote, balloting shall continue  
255 until there is an election, in which case the candidate(s) receiving the smallest number of  
256 votes shall be eliminated from the balloting in each instance.
- 257 e. There shall be no balloting during recess or after adjournment.

258 5.11 Committee on Nominations

- 259 a. The Committee on Nominations for each Convention in which an election is held shall be  
260 elected at the preceding Convention. The District President shall recommend to the  
261 Convention a list of candidates for the Committee on Nominations consisting of  
262 four ~~pastors~~ ordained ministers and five laymen. Additional candidates may be placed in  
263 nomination by the Convention. Of these candidates, the Convention shall elect by ballot  
264 two ~~pastors~~ ordained ministers and three laymen.
- 265 b. It shall be the duty of the Committee on Nominations to recommend at least two candidates  
266 for each of the elective District offices, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.  
267 Qualifications of candidates as to age, occupation or profession, experience, and place of  
268 residence, shall be gathered by the Committee on Nominations and presented to the  
269 Convention. The Committee on Nominations shall obtain the consent of persons nominated  
270 for the various offices.
- 271 c. Vacancies on the Committee on Nominations shall be filled by alternates (in the respective  
272 classifications of ordained ministers or laymen) in the order of the number of votes received  
273 by the nominees in the election of the Committee; or if none, by the Board of Directors.

274 5.21 Committee on Elections

- 275 a. The District President shall appoint a Judge of Elections in the first business session of the  
276 Convention in which an election is to be held. It shall be the duty of the Judge of Elections  
277 to prepare ballots, conduct the balloting, count the votes cast, and report without delay the  
278 results of the voting to the Convention. The Judge of Elections shall have the right of the  
279 floor of the assembly whenever his duties may demand, and he shall have the privilege to  
280 appoint his assistants.
- 281 b. All ballots, valid or void, shall be preserved by the Judge of Elections separately, according  
282 to the order of balloting, until the Convention is adjourned.

283 **VI. AMENDMENTS**

284 6.01 How Made

- 285 a. Changes in, and additions to, these Bylaws may be made, provided they have received  
286 prior approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters of the Synod, and provided they  
287 are –
- 288 (1) Not contrary to the Articles of Incorporation of the District, the Constitution and Bylaws  
289 of the Synod, or the Laws of the State of South Dakota;
- 290 (2) Presented in writing as an overture to the District Convention;

- 291 (3) Specified as Bylaw amendments and considered by a Convention Floor committee;  
292 and
- 293 (4) Adopted by a majority vote of the Convention, provided the resolution is contingent on  
294 approval by the Commission on Constitutional Matters. The amended bylaws become  
295 effective immediately upon, and only upon, approval of the Commission on  
296 Constitutional Matters. Should the Commission on Constitutional Matters not approve  
297 the adopted changes, the District Board of Directors may modify the amendments to  
298 comply with the Commission on Constitutional Matters' requirement, upon their two-  
299 thirds vote.

300 6.03 Former Bylaws

- 301 a. All Bylaws governing this corporation are herewith repealed and these Bylaws adopted in  
302 lieu thereof.

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310  
311

Respectfully Submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Board of Directors of  
The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1   **OVERTURE: 1-13**
- 2   **SUBJECT:**   THE SOUTH DAKOTA CHURCH EXTENSION FUND AND LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3                   EXTENSION FUND
- 4   **WHEREAS,**   It is our Christian joy to be a good steward of all of God's gracious gifts: "His master said  
5                   to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set  
6                   you over much. Enter into the joy of your master,'" St. Matthew 25:21 (ESV); AND
- 7   **WHEREAS,**   The South Dakota Church Extension Fund (CEF) has faithfully served The South Dakota  
8                   District since 1907 A.D.; AND
- 9   **WHEREAS,**   A number of mitigating circumstances challenge our District's ability to continue to provide  
10                  a quality church extension ministry on our own, including: increasing regulations upon  
11                  church extension funds, including filing requirements with the state and the need to  
12                  purchase banking liability insurance; our CEF assets not being sufficient to approve loan  
13                  requests exceeding \$600,000; our CEF's limited portfolio of investment options; CEF's  
14                  need to purchase an appropriate banking computer system to enable investors to have  
15                  online accounts in a secure website environment; and the pending retirement of Randy  
16                  Gayken, our SD District Business Manager and CEF manager; AND
- 17   **WHEREAS,**   The Lutheran Church Extension Fund – Missouri Synod (LCEF) was formed by the Synod  
18                  in Convention in 1977 in order to bring the Church Extension Funds of the various Districts  
19                  of the Synod into one organization of the Synod, providing the administration and the loan  
20                  and investment products and services Districts cannot afford or provide because of the  
21                  limited assets the fund has or because of regulations in their states; AND
- 22   **WHEREAS,**   LCEF provides a broad portfolio of individual and congregational investor products and  
23                  ministry services, doing so with high ratings in the industry; AND
- 24   **WHEREAS,**   A "Future of the CEF" committee was appointed by the District President, in 2016, to make  
25                  a recommendation to the District Board of Directors as to whether we should keep our CEF  
26                  in its current form, or whether we should transfer CEF's loan receivable, investor payables,  
27                  and net asset balance to Synod's Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to carry out the  
28                  ministries of church extension in our District. (This committee consisted of Mr. Jim Schnaidt  
29                  of Menno; Mr. John Mills of Brookings; Mr. Randy Gayken, our District Business Manager;  
30                  Rev. L. Scott Spiehs of Wolsey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of the District; Rev. Brad Urbach of  
31                  Pierre; and Rev. Scott Sailer, our District President.); AND
- 32   **WHEREAS,**   The "Future of the CEF" committee recommended unanimously that the South Dakota  
33                  District CEF should consolidate into and become a member District of the LCEF; AND
- 34   **WHEREAS,**   The South Dakota District Board of Directors, at its June 2017 regular meeting, voted  
35                  unanimously to consolidate our District CEF into LCEF; AND
- 36   **WHEREAS,**   The consolidation was finalized on October 15, 2017; THEREFORE BE IT
- 37   **RESOLVED:**   That we express our deep appreciation and thanks to all the past District Boards of  
38                  Directors, CEF Committees, staff, and investors over the past 110 years that made this  
39                  fund a blessing for all the congregations and schools who received loans from CEF to build  
40                  or make improvements to their facilities for worship, education and fellowship; AND BE IT  
41                  FURTHER

To The 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
April 19-21, 2018

42 **RESOLVED:** That we thank God for the extraordinary efforts of Randy Gayken and Chad Zinnel,  
43 resulting in the smooth transfer of records and accounts from our South Dakota CEF to  
44 LCEF; AND BE IT FURTHER

45 **RESOLVED:** That all congregations, schools, and rostered church workers of the District be encouraged  
46 to consider the investor products and ministry services of LCEF, as faithful stewards of the  
47 resources God has given them; AND BE IT FINALLY

48 **RESOLVED:** That we acknowledge the ministry of LCEF as a valued partner in the Gospel to assist us  
49 in proclaiming in our District and throughout the earth, “Behold your God! What help! What  
50 hope!”

51

52

Respectfully Submitted,

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The Board of Directors of  
The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1     **OVERTURE:**   1-14  
2
- 3     **SUBJECT:**    TO ELIMINATE THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN ELECTORAL AND VISITATION  
4                    CIRCUITS AND THE COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT OF SAME  
5
- 6     **WHEREAS,**     LCMS Bylaw 3.1.2 (a) states: “An electoral circuit shall consist of . . . 7 to 20 member  
7                    congregations, involving an aggregate communicant membership ranging from 1,500 to  
8                    10,000; AND  
9
- 10    **WHEREAS,**    Bylaw 3.1.2(a) is the only place in the LCMS Constitution or Bylaws where communicant  
11                    membership is taken into account; AND  
12
- 13    **WHEREAS,**    The Church is not to be measured by “communicant membership” for wherever the  
14                    Gospel is preached in its truth and purity and the Sacraments administered according to  
15                    Christ’s command, there is Christ present and there is the Church, even if there are only  
16                    two or three gathered together in His name (AC VIII; *Christian Dogmatics*, Vol III, p 409;  
17                    Mat 18:20); AND  
18
- 19    **WHEREAS,**    All congregations, regardless of numbers of communicant members, share equally in the  
20                    authority and power of the Church, that is, the Office of the Keys, and are the possessors  
21                    of the priesthood and all church power, even if there are only two or three believers in  
22                    them (*Kirche und Amt*, Part One, Theses IV, VI, VII, Part Two, Thesis VII)  
23
- 24                    “As visible congregations that still have the Word and the sacraments essentially  
25                    according to God’s Word bear the name “church” because of the true invisible  
26                    church of sincere believers that is found in them, so also they possess the power  
27                    [authority] that Christ has given to His whole church, on account of the true  
28                    invisible church hidden in them, even if there were only two or three [believers]”  
29                    (*Ibid*, Part 1, VII), AND  
30
- 31    **WHEREAS,**    All congregations, regardless of number of communicant members, are equally members  
32                    of Synod and District, equally bound by the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod and  
33                    District, equally obligated to fulfill the requirements of Synodical membership, equally  
34                    asked to financially support the work of Synod and District, equally called upon to uphold  
35                    the confessional position of the LCMS, and equally entitled to the benefits of Synodical  
36                    membership, nor are there any communicant membership requirements stated for  
37                    member congregations in Synod (LCMS Constitution, Article V, VI, VII, LCMS Bylaws,  
38                    1.3.1, 1.3.4, 1.3.4.1, 1.3.5, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1); AND  
39
- 40    **WHEREAS,**    All member congregations of Synod, regardless of number of communicant members,  
41                    are considered voting members of Synod (LCMS Constitution Article V, LCMS Bylaw  
42                    1.2.1 (x)); AND  
43
- 44    **WHEREAS,**    The only individual persons who are members of Synod are “ministers of religion –  
45                    ordained” and “ministers of religion – commissioned” (LCMS Bylaw 1.2.1(l), 2.6); AND  
46
- 47    **WHEREAS,**    Communicant members of a congregation are not members of Synod and do not fall  
48                    under the ecclesiastical authority of District or Synod, but remain under the authority of

- 49 the congregation, nor do the LCMS Constitution and Bylaws or the LCMS Dispute  
50 Resolution Process (except for the exceptions specified in Bylaw 1.10.2) hold any  
51 authority over individual communicant members of congregations (LCMS Bylaws 1.1.1,  
52 1.3.1, 1.10.2); AND  
53
- 54 **WHEREAS,** The requirement of at least 1,500 communicant members in an electoral circuit is  
55 inconsistent with our doctrine of the Church (see above); AND  
56
- 57 **WHEREAS,** Many congregations, especially in the rural districts of our Synod, are dwindling in  
58 numbers of communicant members, yet there are still “two or three” gathered in the name  
59 of Christ within them; AND  
60
- 61 **WHEREAS,** The requirement of at least 1,500 communicant members in an electoral circuit is  
62 becoming an increasing burden in many of our districts, requiring electoral circuits of  
63 ever-increasing geographic size; AND  
64
- 65 **WHEREAS,** The increasing geographic distances required to form electoral circuits of at least 1,500  
66 communicant members is becoming an obstacle to efficient communication within the  
67 circuit, especially with the expectation that electors visit the congregations of the circuit,  
68 which could require significant travel, and since many of the older and/or isolated rural  
69 members of our congregations do not have email, cell phones, or other means of  
70 electronic communication; AND  
71
- 72 **WHEREAS,** Close personal and congregational relationships are formed within circuits that greatly  
73 promote the stated goals of Bylaw 5.1.1 and these relationships are disrupted whenever  
74 there are changes to the formation of the circuit; AND  
75
- 76 **WHEREAS,** These personal and congregational relationships often extend to the auxiliaries of Synod  
77 (LWML and ILLL) operating within the circuits, which relationships are also disrupted with  
78 when there are changes to the formation of circuits; AND  
79
- 80 **WHEREAS,** The LCMS Bylaws allow all congregations/parishes, regardless of the number of  
81 communicant members, equal voice and vote in the nomination and election of the LCMS  
82 President and Vice-Presidents (Bylaw 2.12); AND  
83
- 84 **WHEREAS,** Bylaw 3.1.2(b) allows the Synodical President to make exceptions to the requirements of  
85 electoral circuits, which has been done in the past and caused much turmoil and dissent  
86 within Synod; THEREFORE BE IT  
87
- 88 **RESOLVED:** That the distinction between electoral and visitation circuits be eliminated and the Bylaws  
89 be amended to reflect this change; AND BE IT FURTHER  
90
- 91 **RESOLVED:** That the communicant membership requirement for circuits be eliminated; AND BE IT  
92 FURTHER  
93
- 94 **RESOLVED:** That Bylaw 3.1.2 be revised to read:  
95

To The 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
April 19-21, 2018

96 "Voting delegates shall consist of one pastor and one layman from each circuit."  
97 AND BE IT FURTHER

98  
99 **RESOLVED:** That Bylaws 3.1.2 (a) and 3.1.2 (b) be eliminated; AND BE IT FINALLY

100  
101 **RESOLVED:** That Bylaw 5.1.3 be added which shall read:

102 "A circuit shall consist of from 7 to 20 congregations and, except during a  
103 pastoral vacancy in (a) member congregation(s), at least 7 pastors."  
104

105

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Respectfully Submitted by

St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
PO Box 126, Alexandria, SD 57311

- 1   **OVERTURE: 1-15**  
2
- 3   **SUBJECT:**    TO DISBAND CIRCUIT D (“HURON CIRCUIT”), ASSIGN ITS CONGREGATIONS TO  
4                    ADJACENT CIRCUITS, AND RE-LETTER CIRCUITS  
5
- 6   **WHEREAS,**    LCMS Bylaw 3.1.2(a) states: “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two  
7                    adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the  
8                    basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20  
9                    member congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed membership ranging from  
10                   1,500 to 10,000” AND  
11
- 12   **WHEREAS,**    LCMS Bylaw 5.1.1 states: “A visitation circuit is a network of congregations that ‘walks  
13                    together’ for mutual care, support, advice, study, ecclesiastical encouragement, service,  
14                    coordination, resources, and counsel—all for the sake of greater congregational  
15                    participation in God’s mission” AND  
16
- 17   **WHEREAS,**    The current configuration of Circuit D (the “Huron Circuit”) was established at the 2009  
18                    Convention of The South Dakota District (Resolution 1-03) by including Our Savior  
19                    Lutheran Church in Madison and St. John’s Lutheran Church in Howard, both of former  
20                    Circuit E (the “Brookings Circuit”) in order to meet or exceed the minimum Synod  
21                    requirements of an electoral circuit both in numbers of member congregations and  
22                    confirmed membership; AND  
23
- 24   **WHEREAS,**    For the 2016 Convention of Synod, The South Dakota District Board of Directors  
25                    determined that Circuit D (the “Huron Circuit”), which barely met Synod’s requirements  
26                    for an electoral circuit, and Circuit G (the “Freeman Circuit”), which fell below Synod’s  
27                    requirements for an electoral circuit, would be combined into one electoral circuit; AND  
28
- 29   **WHEREAS,**    With the exception of a joint circuit forum of Circuit D and Circuit G, during which the  
30                    delegates for the 2016 Convention of Synod were elected, these two circuits have had no  
31                    other joint circuit activity; AND  
32
- 33   **WHEREAS,**    During the current triennium, some of the congregations of Circuit D actively have  
34                    reviewed the baptized and confirmed membership of their congregations with the result  
35                    that their adjusted total memberships have been reduced significantly, consequently  
36                    dropping the total confirmed membership of Circuit D below the minimums noted in  
37                    Synod Bylaw 3.1.2(a); AND  
38
- 39   **WHEREAS,**    With three multiple-point parishes and only one single-point parish within Circuit D, there  
40                    is a limited number of pastors to participate in Circuit Pastoral Conferences (“Winkels”)  
41                    and the kind of networking described in Synod Bylaw 5.1.1; AND  
42
- 43   **WHEREAS,**    While the limited interactions between a select few of the circuit congregations are  
44                    primarily related to activities of The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML)  
45                    groups, there are no other common geographic, demographic, or commercial influences  
46                    which generally bring the geographically wide-spread congregations of Circuit D together;  
47                    AND  
48
- 49   **WHEREAS,**    The disbanding of Circuit D and the assignment of its congregations to neighboring  
50                    circuits will provide greater opportunities for the pastors and the congregations to interact



- 1 **OVERTURE: 1-16**  
2  
3 **SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE LARGER CIRCUITS**  
4  
5 **WHEREAS,** Districts throughout Synod continue to struggle with Circuit Realignment each convention  
6 year; AND  
7  
8 **WHEREAS,** Declining membership and smaller congregations are prevalent throughout the Synod;  
9 AND  
10  
11 **WHEREAS,** Smaller and financially distressed congregations, often review their membership numbers,  
12 or even create multiple membership categories to reduce the amount they pay for  
13 Convention costs; AND  
14  
15 **WHEREAS,** Synod Conventions continue to increase in expense, and a larger number of delegates  
16 costs more than a smaller number of delegates; AND  
17  
18 **WHEREAS,** According to Bylaw 3.2.1 based purely on the higher end of congregations necessary for  
19 Electoral Circuits (20 Congregations of 6,101 Total) we could get close to only 306  
20 Electoral Circuits (612 delegates); AND  
21  
22 **WHEREAS,** According to Bylaw 3.2.1 based purely on the higher end of confirmed membership  
23 necessary for Electoral Circuits (1,000 members of 1,609,100) we could get close to only  
24 161 Electoral Circuits (322 delegates); AND  
25  
26 **WHEREAS,** According to Bylaw 3.2.1 there is a maximum and minimum requirement and it can consist  
27 either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits (which allows for shorter distanced meetings  
28 within visitation circuits); AND  
29  
30 **WHEREAS,** Our sinful nature maybe inclined to do the bear minimum possible, and do the least amount  
31 to get by, we should look to be better; THEREFORE BE IT  
32  
33 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District set an example to other districts to reduce the number of  
34 Electoral Circuits trying to be closer to the Maximum requirement range; AND BE IT  
35 FURTHER  
36  
37 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in convention, encourage the LCMS in convention to  
38 encourage all Districts to organize their Electoral Circuits based on the least number of  
39 Circuits possible; AND BE IT FINALLY  
40  
41 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in convention, encourage the LCMS in convention to  
42 encourage all Congregations to maintain only two classifications of membership (Baptized  
43 and Communicant).  
44

45 Respectfully Submitted,  
46

47  
48 \_\_\_\_\_  
49 First English Lutheran Church, Aurora, SD AND  
50 Zion Lutheran Church, White, SD  
Watertown Circuit Forum

- 1 **OVERTURE: 1-17**  
2  
3 **SUBJECT: TO REALIGN INTO LARGER CIRCUITS**  
4  
5 **WHEREAS,** The Huron Circuit (D) has expressed concerns about disbanding; AND  
6  
7 **WHEREAS,** The Freeman Circuit (G) (1,410 communicant members) does not have enough  
8 membership required for an Electoral Circuit (1,500 communicant members); AND  
9  
10 **WHEREAS,** An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be  
11 determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following requirements:  
12 each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an  
13 aggregate confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000; AND  
14  
15 **WHEREAS,** 54 of 107 Congregations in our District are serving in communities with fewer than 1,000  
16 people; AND  
17  
18 **WHEREAS,** 32 of 107 Congregations in our District are serving in communities with fewer than 500  
19 people; AND  
20  
21 **WHEREAS,** 36 out of 62 Parishes in our District show a decline in membership since 2012; AND  
22  
23 **WHEREAS,** 6 out of 62 Parishes in our District have average worship attendance less than 50; AND  
24  
25 **WHEREAS,** 81 out of 107 Congregations in our District have average worship attendance less than  
26 100; AND  
27  
28 **WHEREAS,** 29 out of 62 Parishes in our Beloved South Dakota District have average worship  
29 attendance less than 100 (which is the recommended minimum attendance to be able to  
30 support a full-time Pastor); THEREFORE BE IT  
31  
32 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District continue to encourage our small congregations and parishes  
33 across the district to be mission outposts to their communities; AND BE IT FURTHER  
34  
35 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District be organized into 6 Circuits which would be arranged as  
36 follows: Circuit A (Black Hills) include Divine Shepherd, Black Hawk; Emmanuel, Creighton  
37 and First, Wall; Our Redeemer, Custer and Our Savior's, Hill City; Grace, Deadwood and  
38 Blessed Emmanuel, Sturgis; Bethesda, Hot Springs; Bethlehem, Rapid City; Our  
39 Redeemer, Rapid City; Peace, Rapid City' Zion, Rapid City; St. Paul, Spearfish; St. Paul,  
40 Draper and Messiah, Murdo; Our Redeemer, Philip; and St. Peter, Midland and St. John,  
41 Norris (18 Congregations with 4,346 Membership)  
42  
43 Circuit B (Pierre Mitchell) include Emmanuel, Gettysburg; Christ Lebanon; Faith, Pierre;  
44 Trinity, Blunt; Holy Cross, Onida; Immanuel, Harrold.; Zion, Presho; Trinity, Reliance; Zion,  
45 Chamberlain; Zion, Hamill; Christ, Winner; Trinity, White Lake; St. Paul, Plankinton; Zion,  
46 Wessington Springs; Mount Olive, Woonsocket; St. John, Wolsey; Mt. Calvary, Huron; St.  
47 John, Gregory; and Zion, Mitchell (19 congregations with 5,260 membership)  
48  
49 Circuit C (Aberdeen) include Our Savior's, Aberdeen; St. John, Columbia; St. Paul,  
50 Aberdeen; St. John, Aberdeen; Trinity, Mansfield; St. Paul, Stratford; Zion, Andover; St.  
51 John, Groton; St. John, Britton; St. Paul, Ferney; Concordia, Cresbard; Immanuel, Wecota;  
52 St. Paul, Leola; Messiah, Redfield; Redeemer, Doland (15 Congregations with 2,794  
53 membership)  
54

55 Circuit D (Watertown Brookings) include First English, Aurora; Zion, White, Mt. Calvary,  
56 Brookings; Peace, Brookings; Redeemer, Flandreau; Our Savior's, Wilmot; Trinity, Corona;  
57 Emanuel, Milbank; Bethlehem, Milbank; St. John, Revillo; Mt. Olive, Watertown; St. John,  
58 Howard; Our Savior, Madison; Emanuel, Sisseton; Zion, Waubay; and St. Peter,  
59 Wentworth, (16 Congregations with 3,338 membership)  
60

61 Circuit E (Sioux Falls Yankton) include Blessed Redeemer, Brandon; Christ, Sioux Falls;  
62 Trinity, Sioux Falls; Faith, Sioux Falls; Lord of Life, Sioux Falls; Memorial, Sioux Falls; Our  
63 Redeemer, Sioux Falls; Resurrection, Sioux Falls; Zion, Sioux Falls; Risen Savior, Tea;  
64 Trinity, Hartford; Holy Cross, Dakota Dunes; Concordia, Vermillion; St. John's, Yankton;  
65 Peace, Alcester; Zion, Hurley; First English, Centerville; Immanuel, Menno; St. Paul,  
66 Scotland; (19 Congregations with 5,478 membership)  
67

68 Circuit F (Armour Freeman) include St. Peter, Emery; Faith, Parkston; Trinity, Spencer; St.  
69 Martin, Alexandria; St. John, Emery; Immanuel, Dimock; Redeemer, Armour; Zion,  
70 Delmont; Emmaus, Tripp; Trinity, Fairfax; St. John, Wagner; St. John, Tyndall; Martinus,  
71 Utica; Zion, Avon; Our Savior, Springfield; Bethesda, Marion; First Parker; St. John,  
72 Montrose; Zion, Canistota; St. Paul, Freeman (20 Congregations with 2,832 membership);  
73 AND BE IT FINALLY  
74

75 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District continue to encourage each of these Circuits to identify a  
76 new mission plant in the District.  
77

78 Respectfully Submitted,  
79

80 \_\_\_\_\_  
81 First English Lutheran Church, Aurora, SD AND  
82 Zion Lutheran Church, White, SD

- 1 **OVERTURE: 1-18**  
2  
3 **SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE SOLE PLACEMENTS FROM SEMINARIES**  
4  
5 **WHEREAS,** The number of calling congregations now exceeds the number of available seminary  
6 candidates; AND  
7  
8 **WHEREAS,** Due to retirements and demographics, there is no immediate change to these numbers for  
9 the foreseeable future; AND  
10  
11 **WHEREAS,** The Word and sacraments are already being delivered by a called and ordained servant of  
12 the Word in those congregations calling an assistant/associate pastor; AND  
13  
14 **WHEREAS,** (AC V & AC XIV) the Word and sacraments are not being delivered to the same degree in  
15 a strictly vacant congregation; AND  
16  
17 **WHEREAS,** The filling of vacancies (Romans 10) puts undue hardships on the families and  
18 congregations of those vacancy pastors filling said vacancies; AND  
19  
20 **WHEREAS,** Serving in a congregation as a sole pastor will better prepare a man for future service to  
21 the Church at large as opposed to specialized ministry in a larger congregation; AND  
22  
23 **WHEREAS,** Having vacancies in a Circuit causes stress and fear in other congregations, as Circuits  
24 continue to walk together for the mission of Christ; AND  
25  
26 **WHEREAS,** Winkels should be a place to help and support pastors handling new and different parts of  
27 the ministry; THEREFORE BE IT  
28  
29 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District encourage winkels to be faithful, open, and supportive  
30 places for pastors to find help and encouragement in their various struggles; AND BE IT  
31 FURTHER  
32  
33 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District encourage congregations who are in need of additional  
34 pastoral staff to consider the needs of congregations in need of a pastor; AND BE IT  
35 FINALLY  
36  
37 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District in convention, encourage the LCMS in convention to instruct  
38 the Council of Presidents, acting as the Board of Assignments, to give preference to those  
39 congregations calling sole pastors from the Seminary as opposed to those congregations  
40 calling an assistant/associate pastor from the Seminary.

41  
42 Respectfully Submitted,  
43

44  
45 \_\_\_\_\_  
46 First English Lutheran Church, Aurora, SD AND  
Zion Lutheran Church, White, SD

- 1     **OVERTURE: 2-01**  
2
- 3     **SUBJECT:**     TO ENCOURAGE DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS, PROFESSIONAL CHURCH  
4                     WORKERS, AND LAY PEOPLE TO LOOK TO GOD AND POINT OTHERS TO HIM FOR  
5                     HIS HELP AND HOPE  
6
- 7     **WHEREAS,**     The theme of the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—  
8                     Missouri Synod has been chosen to urge congregations, schools, ministries, church  
9                     workers, and individual members of our congregations to take to heart God’s message to  
10                    “Behold Your God!”, who is our Help and Hope (Isaiah 40:9, 52:3; John 3:14-15); AND  
11
- 12    **WHEREAS,**     The fields “are already white unto harvest,” as people outside the Church, near and far, do  
13                     not trust God for the help and hope He wishes to give to all people, especially for the  
14                     forgiveness and salvation He provides through His Son, Jesus Christ (John 4:35, NKJV);  
15                     AND  
16
- 17    **WHEREAS,**     “Whoever believes in [God’s Son, Jesus Christ] is not condemned, but whoever does not  
18                     believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son  
19                     of God” (John 3:18); AND  
20
- 21    **WHEREAS,**     The Gospel is the “power of God for salvation for everyone who believes”  
22                     (Romans 1:16); AND  
23
- 24    **WHEREAS,**     Besides needing the Gospel, our neighbors near and far have a great need for food,  
25                     clothing, shelter, and other human necessities, and may lack the resources to obtain them;  
26                     AND  
27
- 28    **WHEREAS,**     God’s people who have been shown mercy are to show mercy to fellow Christians and to  
29                     others in their time of need through sacrificial, joy-filled acts of kindness and through  
30                     sharing the Good News of their Savior (Galatians 6:10; II Corinthians 1:3-5, 5:17-20,  
31                     8:1-5); AND  
32
- 33    **WHEREAS,**     Unbelievers can meet the living God in the person of a transformed believer and his or her  
34                     modest examples of Christian faithfulness, kindness, and forgiveness  
35                     (Matthew 5:16; I Peter 2:12); AND  
36
- 37    **WHEREAS,**     The Church is God’s “Zion” today, who, while continually beholding and trusting its gracious  
38                     God, is to encourage our neighbors near and far to also behold Him for His salvation  
39                     through the Cornerstone of Zion, Jesus Christ, and the manifold other blessings He wishes  
40                     to provide for them (Isaiah 28:16, 49:6, 60:1-3; Ephesians 2:19-22;  
41                     Hebrews 12:22); AND  
42
- 43    **WHEREAS,**     The Mission Statement of our Synod states, “In grateful response to God’s grace and  
44                     empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran  
45                     Church – Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed  
46                     within our churches, communities, and the world,” and our District is the Synod in this place  
47                     (cf. 2016 Handbook of the Synod, Bylaw 4.1.1.1); THEREFORE BE IT  
48
- 49    **RESOLVED:**    That every congregation, parish, ministry, and school in The South Dakota District be  
50                     encouraged to offer at least one weekly Bible study to help lift the eyes of God’s people to  
51                     “Behold [Their] God!”, as God, through His Word, helps them to “grow in the grace and  
52                     knowledge of [their] Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:18); AND BE IT FURTHER  
53

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54 **RESOLVED:** That individual circuits or adjoining circuits in the District endeavor to equip God’s people  
55 to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ through word and deed by utilizing Synod and  
56 District resources such as the “Everyone His Witness” workshop, LCMS Rural and Small  
57 Town Mission (RSTM), and the District’s Outreach Service Area, coordinating such efforts  
58 through the Executive Secretary of the District; AND BE IT FINALLY  
59

60 **RESOLVED:** That congregations and schools in the District be encouraged to apply for a District Harvest  
61 Grant to be used for events and ministries that reach out into their communities and  
62 contexts with “the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39).  
63

64 Respectfully Submitted,  
65  
66

67 \_\_\_\_\_  
68 The Board of Directors of  
69 The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE: 2-05**  
2  
3 **SUBJECT:** TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT NON-CHURCH WORKER ATTENDANCE IN THE  
4 CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
5  
6 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District already very generously supports students pursuing church work  
7 degrees; AND  
8  
9 **WHEREAS,** The Lord has called people of various vocations into His Kingdom; AND  
10  
11 **WHEREAS,** The Scriptures teach that the Lord gives differing gifts to be used in the church, the body  
12 of Christ (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27); AND  
13  
14 **WHEREAS,** We acknowledge the need for well trained lay people for service in the church and world;  
15 AND  
16  
17 **WHEREAS,** The Concordia University System (CUS) institutions offer a large number of non-church  
18 worker degrees to the aforementioned ends; AND  
19  
20 **WHEREAS,** The education and opportunities provided at our Universities help to equip lay people for  
21 service not only in the world, but in their future congregations and church at large; AND  
22  
23 **WHEREAS,** The District already supports non-church work members attending state schools through  
24 our campus ministries; AND  
25  
26 **WHEREAS,** There is no support for non-church work students at CUS institutions from the District; now,  
27 THEREFORE BE IT  
28  
29 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations of The South Dakota District continue to encourage the young  
30 people of our congregations to consider attending a Concordia to prepare for church work  
31 to meet the great need in the church; AND BE IT FURTHER  
32  
33 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations of the South Dakota District youth to consider a CUS school for  
34 non-church work degrees; AND BE IT FURTHER  
35  
36 **RESOLVED:** That congregations seek to encourage attendance and also seek to support their own (and  
37 other) students attending a CUS university regardless of church or non-church work paths,  
38 AND BE IT FINALLY  
39  
40 **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors of the South Dakota District seek a means to provide a district  
41 scholarship for members of district congregations who are and will be attending a  
42 Concordia University System institution for non-church work degrees.  
43

44 Respectfully Submitted,  
45

46 \_\_\_\_\_  
47 Circuit I  
48 Yankton Circuit

- 1   **OVERTURE:**   2-06  
2  
3   **SUBJECT:**    TO COMMEND NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL ACCREDITATION AND ENCOURAGE  
4                   LUTHERAN SCHOOLS TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE  
5  
6   **WHEREAS,**    God commands parents, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he  
7                   will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6); AND  
8  
9   **WHEREAS,**    The Lord Jesus Christ invited children to come into his presence when he said, “Let the  
10                  children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God” (Mark  
11                  10:14); AND  
12  
13   **WHEREAS,**    Martin Luther said that “for the sake of the Church we must have and maintain Christian  
14                  schools” (“To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany That They Establish and Maintain  
15                  Christian Schools,” 1524); AND  
16  
17   **WHEREAS,**    The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has a strong tradition of assisting parents  
18                  in their God-given vocation of educating their children through Lutheran schools; AND  
19  
20   **WHEREAS,**    LCMS schools (early childhood centers, elementary, and high schools) are the second-  
21                  largest parochial educational system in the United States, operating 1,150 early childhood  
22                  centers, 793 elementary schools, 86 high schools, and 3 international high schools (Hong  
23                  Kong, Shanghai, and Hanoi), serving students and their families; AND  
24  
25   **WHEREAS,**    Congregations in The South Dakota District operate 17 early childhood centers/preschools,  
26                  4 elementary schools, and 2 high schools, all of which provide their students with an  
27                  excellent educational experience while also faithfully sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
28                  with students and their families; AND  
29  
30   **WHEREAS,**    National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) assists schools to become education  
31                  centers of excellence through the NLSA process and has accredited 802 Lutheran schools  
32                  in the LCMS: 244 Lutheran early childhood centers, 501 Lutheran elementary schools, and  
33                  57 Lutheran high schools; AND  
34  
35   **WHEREAS,**    Several Lutheran schools in The South Dakota District have greatly benefitted from  
36                  completing the NLSA process: Bethesda Lutheran School, Hot Springs; St. John’s  
37                  Lutheran Preschool, Yankton (the first preschool/early childhood center in the District to  
38                  earn NLSA accreditation); Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls; Zion Lutheran School,  
39                  Rapid City; AND  
40  
41   **WHEREAS,**    Lutheran schools in The South Dakota District that have completed the NLSA process have  
42                  shown that they excel in providing a quality education while also sharing the Gospel of  
43                  Jesus Christ, which is demonstrated by Rev. David Schwan and Rev. Paul Winckler, Zion  
44                  Lutheran Church and School, Rapid City, being nominated for the NLSA “School  
45                  Shepherd” award and Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls being named a “School of  
46                  Distinction” by NLSA; AND  
47  
48   **WHEREAS,**    Terry Schmidt has faithfully served Lutheran schools in the LCMS as the Associate Director  
49                  of School Ministry (2003-2013) and the Director of School Ministry (2013-2018), all the  
50                  while overseeing the National Lutheran School Accreditation process, and plans to retire  
51                  in June 2018; THEREFORE BE IT  
52  
53   **RESOLVED:**   That The South Dakota District in convention thank God for Terry Schmidt’s love of and  
54                  dedication to Lutheran education, commend him for his faithful and dedicated service to

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55 Lutheran schools in the District and around the LCMS, and wish him a blessed retirement;  
56 AND BE IT FURTHER

57  
58 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in convention recognize the hard work that Lutheran  
59 schools in the District have done to earn NLSA accreditation and commend the  
60 administrators, faculties, and staffs of Bethesda Lutheran School, Hot Springs; St. John's  
61 Lutheran Preschool, Yankton; Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls; Zion Lutheran  
62 School, Rapid City for achieving National Lutheran School Accreditation; AND BE IT  
63 FINALLY

64  
65 **RESOLVED:** That all Lutheran early childhood centers, preschools, elementary schools, and high  
66 schools in The South Dakota District be encouraged to continue being education centers  
67 of excellence and that they continue to share Jesus Christ with their students in Word and  
68 deed, and that they consider pursuing National Lutheran School Accreditation as a way to  
69 ensure excellence in their schools.

70  
71 Respectfully Submitted,

72  
73 \_\_\_\_\_  
74 The Board of Directors of  
75 The South Dakota District, LCMS

- 1   **OVERTURE:   2-07**  
2  
3   **SUBJECT:     TO CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR THE 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF**  
4                   **CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, SEWARD, NEBRASKA**  
5  
6   **WHEREAS,**     Since its founding on November 18, 1894, the Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia  
7                   University, Nebraska by empowering it to serve The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as  
8                   an educational institution equipping students to learn, serve and lead in the Church and  
9                   world; AND  
10  
11   **WHEREAS,**     The Lord of the Church led the founders of the University to provide the funds and land to  
12                   locate the institution in Seward, Nebraska so that the institution would be a blessing to the  
13                   local community, the Nebraska and surrounding Districts and the entire LCMS; AND  
14  
15   **WHEREAS,**     The Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska to be the leading  
16                   preparer of fulltime workers in the ministries of the LCMS, as today it places more  
17                   graduates into the commissioned teaching and Director of Christian Education ministries  
18                   of the church than any other institution of the Concordia University System; AND  
19  
20   **WHEREAS,**     The Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska to equip men for the  
21                   pastoral ministry through its pre-seminary and other academic programs so that,  
22                   historically, each year between 40 and 50 are involved in academic and spiritual  
23                   preparation to study at an LCMS seminary with the result that seven (7) percent of those  
24                   serving as pastors in the LCMS today are alumni of Concordia University, Nebraska; AND  
25  
26   **WHEREAS,**     The God of all creation has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska with opportunities to  
27                   equip students with a Lutheran Christian higher education for vocations of service in  
28                   business, laboratories, hospitals, industry, courtrooms, government, the military, their  
29                   home and the communities where they reside; AND  
30  
31   **WHEREAS,**     The God of all wisdom and knowledge has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska by  
32                   enabling it to serve the Church and world through 110 undergraduate and graduate  
33                   academic programs at its campuses in Seward and Lincoln, through its high school  
34                   partners and online; AND  
35  
36   **WHEREAS,**     The God of service has blessed the Church and world through the more than 23,000  
37                   alumni, sainted and living, of Concordia University, Nebraska who have walked by faith  
38                   and not by sight and the hundreds of gifted and faithful faculty and staff who served these  
39                   men and women during their educational studies; AND  
40  
41   **WHEREAS,**     The God of abundance has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska through the tens of  
42                   thousands of donors who have faithfully supported the University with their prayers,  
43                   generous gifts and referral of students; AND  
44  
45   **WHEREAS,**     The God of grace and mercy continues to bless Concordia University with record numbers  
46                   of undergraduate and graduate students—2,757 in 2016-17. THEREFORE, BE IT  
47  
48   **RESOLVED:**    That the 2018 Convention of the South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
49                   Synod pause from its regular business to offer special thanksgiving and praise to almighty  
50                   God for His continued blessings on Concordia University, Nebraska and to commend its  
51                   students, faculty, staff and administration to His continued providential care; AND BE IT  
52                   FINALLY  
53  
54   **RESOLVED:**    That The South Dakota District memorialize the LCMS at its July 2019 Convention to  
55                   declare November 17, 2019 as a synodwide “Concordia University, Nebraska Sunday,”  
56                   encouraging and facilitating prayers, thanksgiving, offerings, gifts and student referrals to

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65

be given in celebration of the Lord's abundant blessings to the Church through one of its  
treasured universities.

Respectfully Submitted,

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The Board of Directors of  
The South Dakota District

1 **OVERTURE: 3-04**

2  
3 **SUBJECT:** TO THANK GOD FOR THE WORK OF PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL ON NATIVE  
4 AMERICAN RESERVATIONS IN THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT

5  
6 **PREAMBLE:** Since the 1960's The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and The South Dakota  
7 District have coordinated intentional ministry among the Native American people in South  
8 Dakota. Throughout the years several individuals and their families have been influential  
9 in Native American ministry in The South Dakota District. Reverend W. Walter Weber was  
10 called by the LCMS in 1964 to be its National Indian Ministry Consultant. He established  
11 his office first in Pierre, SD and then in 1965 in Sioux Falls, SD. In 1966 Reverend Clark  
12 Gies was called by the LCMS and The South Dakota District to be the Coordinator of  
13 Religious Activities and Missionary At-Large on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South  
14 Dakota. Pastor Gies and his family lived in the town of Pine Ridge during that time.  
15 Reverend Gies was called in 1971 to serve St. John Lutheran Church, Wagner, SD and to  
16 be Missionary on the Yankton Sioux Reservation where he served until 2002. In 1966  
17 Reverend Bill Paepke was assigned as an Indian Ministry Vicar to Ascension Lutheran  
18 Church, Rapid City, SD. Reverend Paepke's work among the Native Americans continued  
19 in 1968 when he was called to St. John Lutheran Church, Norris, SD and Parmelee, SD to  
20 be the pastor and Missionary At-Large on the Rosebud Reservation. In 1970 Larry Belitz  
21 was called by The South Dakota District as a Worker-Priest to serve on the Pine Ridge  
22 Reservation where he taught school in Pine Ridge. To this day, Larry and his wife, Doris,  
23 participate in the mission work on the Pine Ridge Reservation. In the late 1980's and early  
24 1990's Reverend Tom Zeller of St. John's Lutheran Church, Norris, SD was ministering to  
25 Native Americans on the Rosebud Reservation. Reverend Zeller requested that The South  
26 Dakota District consider calling someone to full-time missionary service on the Rosebud  
27 Reservation. In 1993 The South Dakota District Board of Directors extended a call to  
28 Reverend Robert Utecht to be the first full-time District-called missionary to the Native  
29 Americans on the Rosebud Reservation. In 1994 Reverend Utecht, along with the help of  
30 his wife, Donna, and Larry and Doris Belitz, also began ministering to Native Americans on  
31 the Pine Ridge Reservation. Reverend Utecht and his family were familiar with the  
32 Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations. In the 1970's Reverend Utecht and his family  
33 traveled through the Rosebud and Pine Ridge Reservations doing puppet shows for the  
34 Native Americans. Reverend Utecht and his wife, Donna, faithfully served as missionaries  
35 to the Native Americans until Reverend Utecht's retirement in 2012. In 1997 The South  
36 Dakota District called Reverend Andrew Utecht, Robert and Donna's son, to be the full-  
37 time missionary to the Native American people on the Rosebud Reservation. Reverend  
38 Utecht, with the assistance of his wife, Lori, and their children throughout the years,  
39 continues to serve on the Rosebud Reservation. In 2012 The South Dakota District called  
40 Reverend Albert Sutton to be a part-time missionary to the Pine Ridge Reservation and he  
41 works with his team of Donna Utecht, Larry and Doris Belitz, and Jeff and Diane Falin. We  
42 thank God for these and many other servants of Christ who have brought the Gospel of  
43 Jesus Christ to our Native American neighbors. We also rejoice that the Holy Spirit  
44 continues to work through God's Word, as God has promised, to bring our Native American  
45 neighbors to faith in our Savior Jesus Christ.

46  
47 **WHEREAS,** The theme for the 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of The South Dakota District is "Behold Your God! What  
48 Help! What Hope!" (Isaiah 40:9, 52:3; John 3:14-15) and was chosen to urge  
49 congregations, schools, ministries, professional church workers, and individual members  
50 of our congregations to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with their communities through  
51 Word and deed; AND

52

- 53 **WHEREAS,** Jesus instructs his disciples, “And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring  
54 them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock and one shepherd”  
55 (John 10:16); AND  
56
- 57 **WHEREAS,** Jesus also commands his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all people throughout the  
58 world when he says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go  
59 therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and  
60 of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.  
61 And behold I am with you always, to the end of the age,” (Matthew 28:18-20); and “Thus it  
62 is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that  
63 repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations,  
64 beginning from Jerusalem,” (Luke 24:46-47); and St. John, describing his vision of eternal  
65 life, says, “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from  
66 every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and  
67 before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out  
68 with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”  
69 (Revelation 7:9-10); AND  
70
- 71 **WHEREAS,** Beginning in the 1960’s, intentional efforts were made by The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
72 Synod, The South Dakota District, and individual congregations to share the Gospel of  
73 Jesus Christ with Native Americans on the Native American reservations of South Dakota;  
74 AND  
75
- 76 **WHEREAS,** In 1993 The South Dakota District Board of Directors extended a call to Reverend Robert  
77 Utecht to serve as the first full-time District-called missionary to the Native Americans on  
78 the Rosebud Reservation and Reverend Utecht and his wife, Donna, served as faithful  
79 missionaries to the Native Americans until Reverend Utecht’s retirement in 2012; AND  
80
- 81 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District’s mission work on the Rosebud Reservation continues to this  
82 day through the faithful ministry of Reverend Andrew Utecht whom The South Dakota  
83 District Board of Directors called to serve as a District missionary in 1997, and whose  
84 ministry is assisted by his wife, Lori, and their children; AND  
85
- 86 **WHEREAS,** November 2018 will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of District funded mission work on the  
87 Rosebud Reservation and July 2017 was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Reverend Andrew  
88 Utecht’s mission work on the Rosebud Reservation; AND  
89
- 90 **WHEREAS,** In 1994 Reverend Robert Utecht, with the help of Donna Utecht, Larry and Doris Belitz and  
91 others, also began sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ on the Pine Ridge Reservation; AND  
92
- 93 **WHEREAS,** In 2012 The South Dakota District Board of Directors called Reverend Albert Sutton to be  
94 a part-time missionary to continue the mission work on the Pine Ridge Reservation, and  
95 he works along with his ministry team: Donna Utecht, Larry and Doris Belitz, and Jeff and  
96 Diane Falin; AND  
97
- 98 **WHEREAS,** 2019 will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the current District funded mission work on the  
99 Pine Ridge Reservation; AND  
100
- 101 **WHEREAS,** Many congregations in The South Dakota District support the District’s mission work  
102 among the Native Americans with their continual prayers, with their financial support, and  
103 by sending mission teams to assist in the missionary efforts; THEREFORE BE IT  
104

105 **RESOLVED:** That we thank God for the missionary efforts of all of those in The South Dakota District  
106 who have shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our Native American neighbors; AND BE  
107 IT FURTHER

108  
109 **RESOLVED:** That congregations, professional church workers, and lay people of the District be  
110 encouraged to continue their support of the mission work on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge  
111 Reservations through their corporate and individual prayers, through corporate and  
112 individual financial gifts, and through personal missionary efforts; AND BE IT FINALLY

113  
114 **RESOLVED:** That following the adoption of this resolution, the assembly will express its thanks to God  
115 for His blessings of faith and salvation in Jesus Christ made available to our Native  
116 American neighbors through the mission efforts of the Rosebud and Pine Ridge  
117 Reservation missions and missionaries by rising to sing “Christ the Eternal Lord” (LSB  
118 #829, Stzs. 1, 3):

119  
120 Christ the eternal Lord,  
121 Whose promise here we claim,  
122 Whose gifts of grace are freely poured  
123 On all who name Your name;  
124 With thankfulness and praise  
125 We stand before Your throne,  
126 Intent to serve You all our days  
127 And make Your glory known.

128  
129 Christ the redeeming Son,  
130 Who shares our human birth,  
131 And by His death salvation won  
132 For ev’ry child of earth;  
133 Inspire our hearts, we pray,  
134 To tell Your love abroad,  
135 That all may honor Christ today  
136 And follow Him as Lord.

137  
138 Respectfully Submitted,

139  
140 \_\_\_\_\_  
141 The Board of Directors of  
142 The South Dakota District LCMS

- 1   **OVERTURE:    3-06**  
2  
3   **SUBJECT:        TO COMMEND AND ENCOURAGE THE WORK OF LCMS DISASTER RESPONSE**  
4  
5   **WHEREAS,**       Our gracious heavenly Father “richly and daily provides us with all that we need to support  
6                    this body and life,” (Martin Luther’s Small Catechism, Explanation of the First Article of the  
7                    Apostles Creed); AND  
8  
9   **WHEREAS,**       David exhorts God’s people to find comfort and refuge in the Lord during times of disaster  
10                   when he writes, “Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in You my soul takes  
11                   refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by”  
12                   (Psalm 57:1); AND  
13  
14   **WHEREAS,**       LCMS Disaster Response serves as a Christian faith-based emergency relief and long-  
15                   term assistance effort following natural and man-made disasters, engaging LCMS  
16                   congregations, districts, recognized service organizations, and partner churches in a  
17                   shared ministry of mercy, with an objective of opening doors to the proclamation of the  
18                   Gospel; AND  
19  
20   **WHEREAS,**       Congregations in The South Dakota District have benefitted greatly from the work of LCMS  
21                   Disaster Response, namely Zion Lutheran Church, Wessington Springs and Zion Lutheran  
22                   Church, Delmont; AND  
23  
24   **WHEREAS,**       Reverend Scott Spiehs, Senior Pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Wolsey, Zion  
25                   Lutheran Church, Wessington Springs, and Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Woonsocket  
26                   faithfully serves the District as its Disaster Response Coordinator; AND  
27  
28   **WHEREAS,**       Reverend Spiehs conducted a Lutheran Early Response Training (LERT) at Faith Lutheran  
29                   Church, Pierre in September 2017 to prepare and train people to respond to disasters and  
30                   emergencies when they happen in their communities and elsewhere; AND  
31  
32   **WHEREAS,**       The South Dakota District was one of 21 LCMS districts to receive a disaster response  
33                   trailer as the result of a generous gift to LCMS Disaster Response from The Lutheran  
34                   Women’s Missionary League (LWML), which is fully equipped and ready to assist in clean  
35                   up and relief efforts when needed; AND  
36  
37   **WHEREAS,**       The opportunity to point those who are suffering to the comfort of the Gospel and to make  
38                   use of financial resources to bring physical and emotional healing to disaster victims has  
39                   never been greater; THEREFORE BE IT  
40  
41   **RESOLVED:**      That the South Dakota District in convention give thanks to God for the work of LCMS  
42                   Disaster Response nationally and internationally, for the generous gift of the disaster-  
43                   response trailer from the LWML, and for the faithful disaster response ministry in The South  
44                   Dakota District by Rev. Scott Spiehs; AND BE IT FINALLY  
45  
46   **RESOLVED:**      That the congregations, schools, professional church workers, and lay people of The South  
47                   Dakota District be encouraged to continue to support the mercy work of LCMS Disaster  
48                   Response with prayer for all those who suffer from all forms of disasters, to participate in  
49                   LERT training as able, to offer volunteer assistance when the opportunity arises, and to  
50                   provide financial resources to assist those in need, as we show Christ’s love through our  
51                   acts of mercy.  
52  
53  
54

To The 61<sup>st</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
April 19-21, 2018

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62

Respectfully Submitted,

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The Board of Directors of  
The South Dakota District, LCMS

- 1 **OVERTURE: 3-07**  
2  
3 **SUBJECT:** TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF REVEREND DAVID WARNER AND REVEREND  
4 DANIEL JASTRAM THROUGH TOGETHER IN MISSION  
5  
6 **WHEREAS,** The Son of Man came into the world to seek and to save that which is lost (cf. Luke 19:10).  
7 He did this so that people should not perish but have eternal life (cf. John 3:16); AND  
8  
9 **WHEREAS,** Through His Word, Jesus promised that His followers would be His witnesses to the end  
10 of the earth (cf. Acts 1:8); AND  
11  
12 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Dr. Alan Ludwig is serving as a missionary to the people of Siberia and is retiring  
13 from his missionary activities and his retirement leaves open the opportunity to assist other  
14 missionaries through the Together In Mission Program (TIM); AND  
15  
16 **WHEREAS,** The past eight conventions of the South Dakota District have resolved that the  
17 congregations of the South Dakota District collectively support the missionary activities of  
18 Amy (Hartwig) Kashenov and Reverend Dr. Alan Ludwig through TIM over and above their  
19 regular mission offerings enabling them to serve as witnesses to the Gospel; AND  
20  
21 **WHEREAS,** Pastor Daniel Jastram, who serves as an LCMS Missionary to Southeast Asia, and Pastor  
22 David Warner, who serves as an LCMS Missionary to Spain have ties to the South Dakota  
23 District; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED  
24  
25 **RESOLVED:** That this convention express its thanks to God for Reverend Dr. Alan Ludwig's service to  
26 the people of Siberia and to the many congregations of The South Dakota District for their  
27 support of him through the Together in Mission Program; AND BE IT FURTHER  
28  
29 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations adopt as new recipients of TIM offerings for the next triennium the  
30 following: Reverend David Warner, missionary to Spain and Reverend Daniel Jastram,  
31 missionary to Southeast Asia; AND BE IT FURTHER  
32  
33 **RESOLVED:** That the offering amount given by the congregations of the South Dakota District for the  
34 Together in Mission Program be divided equally between Reverend Jastram and Reverend  
35 Warner. If either of these missionaries should retire or return from the mission field, the  
36 balance of the TIM funds will go to support the worker remaining in the mission field. If  
37 both of these workers should retire or return from the mission field The South Dakota  
38 District Board of Directors will determine a new missionary to support for the remainder of  
39 the triennium; AND BE IT FINALLY  
40  
41 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation of The South Dakota District be encouraged to remember these  
42 missionaries in corporate and individual prayers and to provide an annual commitment to  
43 the Together in Mission Program along with their regular support of District and Synod  
44 missions.  
45

46 Respectfully Submitted,  
47

48 St. Paul Lutheran Church  
49 Spearfish, South Dakota  
50



- 1 **OVERTURE: 3-09**  
2  
3 **SUBJECT:** TO DESIGNATE THE NEXT TRIENNIUM'S TOGETHER IN MISSION FUNDS TO  
4 MISSIONARY THE REVEREND DOCTOR DANIEL JASTRAM  
5  
6 **WHEREAS,** Jesus tells His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray  
7 earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers in to his harvest" (Matthew 9:37-  
8 38); AND  
9  
10 **WHEREAS,** Disciples are made by baptizing and teaching (Matthew 28:19-20; AND  
11  
12 **WHEREAS,** The difference between seeds that fall upon the good soil and seeds that fall along the path  
13 and are snatched away by the evil one is a matter of understanding the Word of God  
14 (Matthew 13:19, 23); AND  
15  
16 **WHEREAS,** The Ethiopian eunuch was unable to understand the Scriptures because he had no one to  
17 guide him (Acts8:31); AND  
18  
19 **WHEREAS,** Pastor Daniel Jastram who has strong ties to the South Dakota District through his wife,  
20 Joan, a native of South Dakota, and other family, and is now serving as a missionary on  
21 behalf of The Lutheran Church -0 Missouri Synod (LCMS) throughout Asia, based in Tokyo,  
22 Japan; AND  
23  
24 **WHEREAS,** Pastor Daniel Jastram is responsible for developing and implementing a strategic mission  
25 plan for this area. He coordinates theological education opportunities and supervises and  
26 evaluates theological educators throughout Asia. When needed, Daniel teaches courses  
27 at Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary, Tokyo; AND  
28  
29 **WHEREAS,** Pastor Daniel Jastram, who in addition to these duties must also now raise his own funding  
30 and would benefit greatly from significant continual financial support; AND  
31  
32 **WHEREAS,** The South Dakota District resolved at the last convention to support the mission work of  
33 the Reverend Alan Ludwig with their Together In Mission fundraising efforts; AND  
34  
35 **WHEREAS,** The Reverend Alan Ludwig (is retiring/has retired) from his work in Siberia; THEREFORE  
36 BE IT  
37  
38 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations of The South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri  
39 Synod designate their Together in Mission support to Pastor Daniel Jastram for this next  
40 triennium at the level of up to \$40,000 per year, not to exceed the total amount of the  
41 congregation support for Together in Mission.  
42

43 Respectfully Submitted,  
44

45 \_\_\_\_\_  
46 Christ Lutheran Church  
47 Sioux Falls, SD