

- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-01 (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 61st 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, 8:1-
31 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 (Matthew 5:16; I
35 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; Hebrews 12:22); AND
41
42 **WHEREAS,** The Mission Statement of our Synod states, “In grateful response to God’s grace and
43 empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran
44 Church – Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed
45 within our churches, communities, and the world,” and our District is the Synod in this place
46 (cf. 2016 Handbook of the Synod, Bylaw 4.1.1.1); THEREFORE BE IT
47
48 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation, parish, ministry, and school in The South Dakota District be
49 encouraged to offer at least one weekly Bible study to help lift the eyes of God’s people to
50 “Behold [Their] God!”, as God, through His Word, helps them to “grow in the grace and
51 knowledge of [their] Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:18); and BE IT FURTHER
52
53 **RESOLVED:** That individual circuits or adjoining circuits in the District endeavor to equip God’s people
54 to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ through word and deed by utilizing Synod and

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55 District resources such as the “Everyone His Witness” workshop, LCMS Rural and Small
56 Town Mission (RSTM), and the District’s Outreach Service Area, coordinating such efforts
57 through the Executive Secretary of the District; and BE IT FINALLY
58

59 **RESOLVED:** That congregations and schools in the District be encouraged to apply for a District Harvest
60 Grant to be used for events and ministries that reach out into their communities and
61 contexts with “the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39).
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63 Respectfully Submitted,
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67 Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman
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71 Reverend Cory Rajek
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75 Mr. Dave Daberkow
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79 Mrs. Elizabeth Peters
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83 Mr. Mark Rutter
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1 **RESOLUTION: 2-02 (Executive Secretary’s Report, Convention Workbook, pp. 61-65)**

2
3 **SUBJECT:** TO THANK THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

4
5 **WHEREAS,** Our Executive Secretary, the Reverend Darren Olson, has carried out his many duties
6 and tasks in a faithful and evangelical manner to extend the Lord’s kingdom; AND

7
8 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Olson has taken special leadership in directing the Lay Leadership Institute;
9 AND

10
11 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Olson has demonstrated his commitment to the four service areas: youth,
12 young adult, outreach, and congregational; AND

13
14 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Olson has assisted the Christian education of our District from pre-school to
15 high school and beyond, including guiding schools in the accreditation process; AND

16
17 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Olson has displayed many tireless acts of mercy for The South Dakota District;
18 THEREFORE BE IT

19
20 **RESOLVED:** That we thank God for Reverend Darren Olson as the servant-leader in the position of
21 Executive Secretary in our beloved District.
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24 Respectfully Submitted,

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Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman

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Reverend Cory Rajek

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Mr. Dave Daberkow

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Mrs. Elizabeth Peters

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Mr. Mark Rutters

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-03 (Convention Workbook pp. 65-78)**

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3 **SUBJECT:** TO RECOGNIZE WITH THANKSGIVING THE SPECIAL MINISTRIES AND DISTRICT
4 SERVICE AREAS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT, DISTRICT ARCHIVES
5 REPORT, SIOUX FALLS HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM REPORT,
6 CONTINUING EDUCATION REPORT, CHURCH WORKER EDUCATION DEBT
7 ASSISTANCE REPORT; LAY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE REPORT;
8 CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES REPORT, YOUTH SERVICES REPORT AND
9 OUTREACH SERVICES REPORT

10
11 **WHEREAS,** The District Archives Report, Sioux Falls Hospital Chaplaincy Program Report,
12 Continuing Education Report, Church Worker Education Debt Assistance (CWEDA)
13 Report; Lay Leadership Institute Report; Congregational Services Report, Youth Services
14 Report and Outreach Services Report have been submitted to the Convention; AND

15
16 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Wayne Steensma, District Archivist, who continues to maintain the District Archives;
17 AND

18
19 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Matthew Nix, who serves faithfully as the South Dakota District Hospital
20 Chaplain in Sioux Falls; AND

21
22 **WHEREAS,** The Reverend Timothy Koch has provided opportunities for professional growth for
23 pastors of the District through his work in continuing education organizing opportunities
24 for; AND

25
26 **WHEREAS,** The District Board of Directors has faithfully administered the CWEDA program which
27 has provided grants to church workers, AND

28
29 **WHEREAS,** The current members of the four service areas consist of Youth, Reverend Randy
30 Sturzenbecher and Reverend Thomas Brown; Outreach Services, Reverend Aaron
31 Asmus, Krista Erickson, and Reverend Jordon Andreason; Young Adult, Reverend
32 Samuel Bobby and Reverend David Knefelkamp; and the three areas of Congregational
33 Services: Human Care and Disaster Relief, Reverend L. Scott Spiels and Reverend
34 Adam Welton; and Stewardship, Reverend Kory Janneke; AND

35
36 **WHEREAS,** We thank the many teachers of the Lay Leadership Institute; AND

37
38 **WHEREAS,** Reports have been submitted to these ministry service areas and specialized ministries;
39 THEREFORE BE IT

40
41 **RESOLVED:** That we accept these Reports with thanksgiving to God; AND BE IT FINALLY

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43 **RESOLVED:** That we give thanks and praise to God for the dedicated service of these individuals and
44 entities of our beloved South Dakota District.

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46 Respectfully Submitted,

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52 Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman
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Reverend Cory Rajek

Mr. Dave Daberkow

Mrs. Elizabeth Peters

Mr. Mark Rutter

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RESOLUTION: 2-05 (Overture 2-05)

SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT NON-CHURCH WORKER ATTENDANCE IN THE CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

WHEREAS, The Lord has called people of various vocations into His Kingdom; AND

WHEREAS, The Scriptures teach that the Lord gives differing gifts to be used in the church, the body of Christ (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27); AND

WHEREAS, We acknowledge the need for well trained lay people for service in the church and world; AND

WHEREAS, The Concordia University System (CUS) institutions offer a large number of non-church worker degrees to the aforementioned ends; AND

WHEREAS, The education and opportunities provided at our CUS Institutions help to equip lay people for service not only in the world, but in their future congregations and church at large; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the congregations of the South Dakota District continue to encourage the young people of our congregations to consider attending a CUS Institution to prepare for church work to meet the great need in the church; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the congregations of the South Dakota District encourage their youth to consider a CUS Institution for non-church work degrees; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That congregations seek to encourage attendance and also seek to support their own (and other) students attending a CUS Institution regardless of church or non-church work paths.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman

Reverend Cory Rajek

Mr. Dave Daberkow

Mrs. Elizabeth Peters

Mr. Mark Rutter

- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-06 (Overture 2-06)**
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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

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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.

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71 Respectfully Submitted,

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75 Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman

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- 1 **RESOLUTION: 2-07 (Overture 2-07)**
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3 **SUBJECT:** TO CELEBRATE AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR THE 125TH 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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be given in celebration of the Lord's abundant blessings to the Church through one of its treasured universities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman

Reverend Cory Rajek

Mr. Dave Daberkow

Mrs. Elizabeth Peters

Mr. Mark Rutter

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RESOLUTION: 2-10

SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO RECEIVE SPECIAL OFFERINGS TO SUPPORT THE LCMS JOINT SEMINARY FUND ON THE OCCASIONS OF THE ORDINATION/INSTALLATION OF PASTORS OR PASTORS' ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES.

WHEREAS, Well trained pastors are essential for the ongoing work of Word and Sacrament ministry in our congregations; AND

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has been blessed by God with two seminaries for the training and equipping of parish pastors and every congregation in our beloved District and Synod has and continues to benefit from the work of our seminaries in training and equipping parish pastors; AND

WHEREAS, Every congregation in our beloved District and Synod has and continues to benefit from the ministry and service of well-trained pastors from our Synod's seminaries; AND

WHEREAS, As the cost of seminary education continues to rise, the LCMS continues to search for ways to cover the costs of maintaining the quality of the pastoral education of our seminaries without unduly increasing the financial burden of the students; AND

WHEREAS, The LCMS Joint Seminary Fund was established as a vehicle to allow congregations and individuals to contribute to the support of our seminaries in an orderly and systematic way; AND

WHEREAS, The occasions of ordinations and/or installations and the ordination anniversaries of pastors provide wonderful opportunities for congregations to show their thankfulness to God for a pastor to carry out the Word and Sacrament ministry in its midst; THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That congregations of the South Dakota District be encouraged to take a special thank offering on the occasion of the installation and/or ordination of a new pastor or the anniversary of their pastor's ordination to support the LCMS Joint Seminary Fund; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED: That The South Dakota District memorialize the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in convention to encourage the same of all Synod congregations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Thomas Christopher, Chairman

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Reverend Cory Rajek

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