



Presidential and Vice President Election

Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan was reelected president of the Missouri District Monday, June 13, 2022. He received the majority of votes on the first ballot of the election.

Rev. William Marler of Springfield was reelected first vice president.

Elected as second through fourth vice presidents were, respectively, Rev. Kristopher Morris—associate pastor of Christ the King, Ozark, Rev. Brian Thieme—pastor of Trinity Lutheran, Columbia, and Rev. Jason Shaw—senior pastor of St. Paul, Jackson.

Ministry to the Armed Forces

Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Steven Hokana, assistant director of the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, presented the Bronze St. Martin of Tours award to two chaplains from the Missouri District for 20 years or more of outstanding service and exceptional ministry to military personnel. The pastors who received this award are Chaplain Jeremy Gorline, US Navy Reserve and Chaplain David Oberdieck, US Army Reserve.

The award is named after Martin of Tours, an officer in the Roman Army in the fourth century AD. He became a baptized Christian, a cleric, and eventually a bishop in the early church after receiving a vision from Christ. In this vision, a beggar shivered from the cold and Martin cut off half his cape to clothe him. The beggar then revealed himself as Jesus Christ. The Latin *capella*, which was used for the shrine of Martin's cape, is the origin of the English words chapel and chaplain. Additionally, upon the same day Martin of Tours is commemorated, November 11, Martin Luther was baptized. It is for Martin of Tours that Luther was named. Martin of Tours has since been traditionally recognized as a symbol for military chaplains.



Essayist–Part One



Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, who serves as Director at LCMS Youth Ministry, presented part one of the Convention essay titled “Tell the Next Generation” to the delegates this afternoon.

Dr. Kiessling’s essay referred the delegates to the Scriptural truths directing parents to teach their children the faith once delivered to the saints. The home is the primary place of faith development. Drawing from Psalm 78:1-8, Deuteronomy 6:6-9, and 1 Peter 2, as well as the Luther’s catechetical charge to house fathers, Kiessling invited the delegates to consider mighty saving acts of God as revealed in Holy Scripture as comfort and promise for our own time and the coming generations.

Pandemic challenges were widespread and numerous, according to Dr. Kiessling, and this created challenges and opportunities for parents and congregations. Parents especially found themselves spending significantly more time with their children at home and serving in their

vocations as mothers and fathers and in rigorous ways, both to delight and challenge. In particular, questions form children about faith, the Christian faith, and especially, suffering, create the need for parents, especially fathers, to renew their excitement to hear and study the Word of God. Doing so will better equip parents to teach the faith at home and also grow deeper in relationship with the young people whom the Lord has entrusted to them for the sake of living strong lives of witness.

The delegates were reminded that despite the challenges of the world, this teaching work “is not new and is not complicated.” Making reference to the “Christian Training of Youth” essay contained in the *Abiding Word* volumes of doctrinal essays, written post World War II, the essayist demonstrated that though times change, and sometimes very little, Jesus gives calm and hope to every generation, even when the pressures seem entirely different. The home bears the primary responsibility and is the primary place where this hope is instilled and given in grace to young Christians.

There are many benefits to the increase in teaching at home, for parents and youth. Growth in modeling repentance, forgiveness, and the truth of grace of God available through Christ Jesus is promised to all. In addition, parents will know their children as young Christians, their particular spiritual questions and battles, the objective truth of God’s Word, a Christological reading of Scripture, what makes Lutheran Christians different from their peers, and increasing resiliency in an age of anxiety.

Stressing the pressures of social media, Kiessling addressed the exceptional anxiety-inducing challenge of “performance culture” and cancel culture among youth. Even with these pressures, through an increase in home catechesis, young people will more clearly and comfortingly grow as Christians. This will alleviate many of the identity issues arising with the culture and social media pressures, especially in response to the online teaching of online influencers. “They will hear the voice of their Shepherd and know who they are in Jesus” and “they will have no reason to fear” from Luke 12.”

Morning Devotion



This morning, Rev. Fieberkorn preached on the Magnificat in Luke 1, touching base on the absence of Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. He established a connection to the theme for the 21st Missouri District Convention, which is “Telling the Next Generation.” The question then stands, who is to tell them? This is the role of pastors, other church workers, and parents, but especially fathers.

By God’s design, fathers are intended to teach the faith to their household and serve as a faithful example for them. There is no replacement for a father that will faithfully instruct. While the example set by earthly fathers is significant, it is the work of the Heavenly Father that harbors and sustains faith by His Holy Spirit. May we give glory to God and commend and encourage fathers in their vocation of “Telling the Next Generation” the one faith in Christ by their words and deeds.

President’s Report

Rev. Dr. Lee R. Hagan’s *President’s Report* opened the 21st Missouri District Convention. President Hagan offered a short summary of his complete report found in the *Convention Workbook*. In a short accompanying video, the President highlighted the blessings of receiving newly called workers to the Missouri District. The video highlighted over 8,000 individuals participated in the *SHINE!* initiative in its second year. Concluding the video message, an acknowledgment of the confounding challenges the pandemic presented set the tone for sober reflection on the needs of the District. The President exhorted pastors to faithfully preach the Word and rightly administer the Sacraments in response to the decline in worship attendance, and teach to the absolute necessity of corporate worship. Reminding the convention and delegates with an encouragement of our shared confession, the delegates heard the reality and promise loud and clear: “There are challenges, but we have a faithful God.”

In his full report, the President explained in more detail the difficulties and outcomes manifested during the pandemic intensify prescient challenges regarding church attendance and new church worker recruitment. Several of the President’s Critical Targets, especially *Healthy Servants*, *Healthy Workers*, and *Healthy Schools* begin to address these issues. The President stressed the great opportunity before the convention, delegates, and District with the *Tell the Next Generation* initiative coupled with Synod’s *Set Apart to Serve* efforts to recruit, train, and sustain future generations of church writing, “The need for church workers is increasing at an alarming rate.” The convention’s theme of “Tell the Next Generation” fittingly orders the need and task for the re-elected President’s 2022-2025 triennium.

Convention Offering Update

We are blessed to announce additional offerings, bringing our updated total to \$21,433.03. You can read about the offering designation in Sunday’s issue of “Today’s Business” found online.

Resolution Summaries

Commendations for many ministries that serve across generations and cultures and for Lutheran schools, educators, pastors, and church servants who faithfully served amidst the COVID-19 pandemic were key topics at the 21st Missouri District Convention. Discussions on family faith formation support and church worker recruitment and retention garnered special attention as well.

The Convention met June 12-14 in Columbia, MO under the theme “Tell the Next Generation.”

SHINE! included over eight thousand participants in 2022, and delegates approved Res. 1-01 to encourage participation in *SHINE!* during April 14-23, 2023.

The Convention voted to commend and encourage work for immigrants and refugees, Lutheran campus ministries, congregational support for military congregation members and their families, congregational participation in Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT), and faithful care of the vulnerable (Res. 1-02, Res. 1-03, Res. 1-04, Res. 1-05, and Res. 2-06). In Res. 2-02, the decision was made to encourage congregations to collaborate in shared ministry opportunities with the support of the District Missions Shared Ministry Workshops. The collection of these ministries serves many communities across all generations in need of the Gospel in Word and action.

Several resolutions focused on telling the next generation. Delegates approved in Res. 2-01 a new District initiative, Tell the Next Generation, which will train coaches to help congregations and their pastors equip parents to pass on the faith. They also agreed to have Missouri District leadership and staff promote church work vocations (Res. 2-03) and study the feasibility of increasing sources for funding student aid for church work vocations (Res. 4-03).

Other resolutions turned to ministries that faithfully continued to support faith formation in the home via school and congregational ministries. The delegates voted to commend Lutheran schools and educators for their dedicated efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to teaching our youth with encouragement for congregations to continue their support of Lutheran education (Res. 2-04). In Res. 2-05 and Res. 2-07, they similarly commended pastors and church servants for their service during the pandemic and the congregational use of technology to sustain faith while prioritizing the physical gathering of the church while also respecting the health concerns that may result in some members continuing to attend virtually.

Via Res. 3-01, it was determined to encourage the Synod to direct the CTCR to clarify our theological stance on fetal tissues and how their use in pharmaceutical products.

Finally, the convention voted to reinstate a three-term limit for circuit visitors in the Missouri District bylaws, amend District Bylaw 11.D.1.d to remove a conflict, memorialize the Synod to study circuit size requirements to reduce the need to request circuit exemptions for Synod conventions, to amend Missouri District bylaws to conform to CCM suggestions, and to approve the transfer of Holy Cross – St. Genevieve from the Altenburg Circuit to the Farmington Circuit (Res. 4-01, Res. 4-02, Res. 4-04, Res. 4-05, and Res. 4-06).

The newly elected president and praesidium: (left to right): Revs Kristopher Morris, William Marler, President Hagan, Brian Thieme, and Jason Shaw



Other Elections

Secretary

Rev. Samuel Powell, senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Jefferson City, was reelected as secretary.

Board of Directors

Ordained: Rev. Randy Asburry, pastor of Hope Lutheran Church, St. Louis

Commissioned: David Buchholz, of Christ Lutheran Church, Kansas City

Lay: Dale Werts, of Edgerton

Council on Mission and Ministry -

Ordained: Rev. David Gruenwald, pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church, St. Louis

Commissioned: Carol Thompson, of Alive in Christ Lutheran Church, Columbia

Lay: Kent Kunkel, of Concordia

District Nominations Committee

Ordained

Paul Hoeman
James Thomas
Craig Reiter
Joe Rodriguez

Commissioned

Jason Glaskey
Meredith Marsh

Lay

Nathan Decker
Larry W. Dittmer
Thomas R. Johnson
Robert Schlichting

LCMS Committee on Nominations

Rev. Samuel Powell

Alternate: Rev. Brian J. Thorson



Synod Convention Delegates

Ordained Advisory Delegates

Rev. Gary Brandt
Rev. Fred Hertwig
Rev. Stephen Kamprath
Rev. John Ninke
Rev. Al Wollenburg

Alternate Ordained Delegates (in order of ranking):

Rev. James Rhiver
Rev. David Stratmann
Rev. David Burge

Commissioned Advisory Delegates

Deaconess Gillian Bond
David Buchholz
Jeffrey Burkee
David Fiala
David Frank
Charles Gifford
Cheryl Honoree
John Nail
Matthew Janssen
Hannah Knehans
James Lohman
Deaconess Ruth McDonnell
Thomas Nummela
Denise Rice
Matthew Simpson
Carolyn Thompson

Alternate Commissioned Advisory Delegates (in order of ranking):

Linda Gillam
Micheal Kahler
Nancy Nowiszewski
Carole Kleiboeker
Hans Springer
Karla Perkowski
Deaconess Angie Reitmeier



Greeters

The Convention delegates were blessed to have many visitors on Monday. Some of those included formal greetings from Sally Handrick (former president, LWML), Marian Hoehner (newly elected president, LWML), Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger (president, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis), Jonathan Schultz (President and CEO, Concordia Publishing House), Rev. Ken Kruger (vice president, strategy and mission integration, Concordia Plans Services), David Fiedler (president, LCMS Foundation), Rev. Ross Sommerfield (assistant to the president for church engagement, assistant professor of theology, Concordia University, Nebraska), Rev. Russell Dawn (president, Concordia University, Chicago.)

Today, the delegates will hear from Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison (president, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod) and Casey Carlson (LCEF).



2022 President's Acceptance Speech

"It is not good for man to be alone," God said of His first created being. God designed humanity for community. Communion with God and then communion with others. Marriage at its most basic is a community, created by God. The Church is also at its most basic a community created by God, in Christ. One of the greatest challenges that we face in our post-pandemic world is the absence of many members from the public worship of the Church community.

Jesus Christ did not simply declare us righteous from His heavenly throne. Instead, our Lord became flesh and dwelt among us. Christ came down from His place at the Father's right hand and became like one of us. He came among us One who serves and the way He served was by showing mercy and proclaiming the Kingdom of God. He called sinners to leave behind their ways that focused only on themselves and to follow Him by becoming a part of a community that is established by the grace of God. Noted missiologist Lesslie Newbigin put it this way, "Jesus didn't write a book, He formed a community."



The Lutheran understanding of the Church has always been focused on three elements – people, Word and Sacraments. Philipp Melancthon describes the church in articles VII and VIII of the Augsburg Confession as the assembly of saints." Dr. Luther writes of the Church in the Third Article of the Large Catechism, "I believe that there is on earth a holy little flock and community of pure saints under one head, Christ...Of this community I also am a part and member, a participant and co-partner in all the blessings it possesses." We do not have to go searching for the Church but we find it where the Gospel is preached and the Sacraments are administered, whether they be many or few. The Church is first and always a community, a communion with God and with one another.

It is not good for man to be alone. Our Lord still calls us out of the darkness of the isolation of sin and unbelief and into a community of relationships created and sustained by the Holy Spirit. Baptism is not simply an act of mercy for an individual, but also an incorporation into a community. Likewise, the Lord's Supper is a communal meal wherein Christ serves the community and the community then shows mercy and love toward one another. Herman Preus wrote, "Luther sees the Sacrament as the best expression of the union of the individual Christian with Christ and with all other believers in the Body of Christ."

We see clearly through the Scriptures that God's Word was intended to be read, prayed and even sung corporately. Paul instructed that his letters were to be read publicly. In the early days of the Church, the saints assembled together on the first day of the week, but already by the time of the letter to the Hebrews, there were concerns over those who had forsaken the assembly.

God's design for the Church is what Luke describes in Acts chapter 2,

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds

to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

That’s the goal, albeit an imperfect goal.

What does all this mean for the congregations of the Missouri District? Our hope is that the saints of God in every place are indeed devoted to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. We pray that those who have been absent will return to receive Christ and His gifts within the assembly. That is what we hope for for all of our congregations. Many of our congregations have been struggling with a significant number of saints who are absent from worship and not all are absent because of health concerns. Our prayer is that our congregations would embody what is described in Acts chapter 2.

The Missouri District staff and leadership has been working on assessing additional needs of our congregations, schools, and church workers for this upcoming triennium now. We have listened to church workers and laity, in establishing these priorities. I would like to share with you four key priorities for this triennium.

The first is Church Worker Recruitment and Retention. The need for pastors, commissioned ministers, especially Lutheran school teachers is great. District leadership has identified strategies to assist in this area and will work with the Synod’s “Set Apart to Serve” initiative to highlight church work vocations.

The second priority is Family Discipleship. Dr. Mark Kiessling in his essay will be highlighting the importance of teaching the faith within the home. We stand ready to assist congregations in equipping parents to carry out their God-given vocations of telling the next generation as they use Scripture, hymnal, and catechism to teach their children.

The third priority is Community Engagement. We are thankful for all of the congregations that have participated in the “Plus One Initiative” in the past, engaging their communities in one new way, and the Shine Servant Events. However, our prayer is that congregations will move beyond events to engage their communities that service and witness are a way of life for the people of God. We will continue to help our congregations engage their communities, always to proclaim the Gospel.

The fourth priority is Shared Ministry. All across Missouri there are opportunities for congregations of all sizes and in all settings to collaborate so that we can be good stewards of the resources that God has entrusted to us and for the sake of preserving Word and Sacrament ministry and mission in communities across the state. There have been several new shared ministry opportunities established across the district. Sometimes this may include sharing a pastor, but it always includes congregations sharing resources as they work together, and there will be a need for even more shared ministries in the days ahead.

What all four of these targets have in common is that they are focused on the future. We recognize the need to raise up the next generation of faithful children, young adults, pastors, teachers, and church workers and for our congregations to look for ways to work together for the sake of the future. Our prayer is that all who the Spirit calls are drawn into communities of believers through the Means of Grace. We are praying for the future and trusting that God will preserve His Church as He has promised!

What St. Luke described in Acts is the goal for our congregations, but it is still imperfect. It is imperfect because it is a description of the Church Militant, the Church that exists under the cross, the shadow of the cross. The ultimate goal is the Church Triumphant, what St. John describes in Revelation chapter 7,

“a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”

Dear friends, the ultimate goal is that we join with the saints who have gone before us, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, praising our great God.

Dear friends in Christ, I am confident in the future of the Church! It is a confidence that rests not on our plans, priorities, resolutions, congregations or leaders, but on Christ, on His faithful Word and promises. May God preserve His Church among us that we may be a part of communities of believers where Christ is at the center with His good gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. And may we all look forward to the eternal future that God has prepared for His Church in heaven and that this hope will sustain us even through times of great suffering.

The last two years I’ve had a stack of books that I’ve been making my way through. My guess is that many of you have as well. One of those books is by Swedish Lutheran Bishop Bo Giertz. In closing, I leave you with words of Swedish Lutheran Bishop Giertz. He passionately describes the Church’s zeal for reaching those who are lost and also for those who have strayed,

“Even if the Church remains, we cannot be at peace when so many stay away. What we have envisioned of the essence of the Church: the Savior, on His heavenly throne with all the treasures of grace and light that flows down from Him and takes on visible form and shape among us in the means of grace, all this is calling out for a continuation. It seeks faith on earth, it wants to gather us in this light, which only for our sake is shining forth in the world. The Church is the vehicle for an infinite love, God’s love, stretching out to reach His lost children. It would be treason if the Church kept that love for herself so that she began to love her ancient liturgy, her hymns and her customs, but forgot the people that she has been sent to save. Precisely because she is God’s visible presence on earth, she must love all the people with God’s own love, also the most scornful and rejecting, also the lost and the repulsive. Her constant and burning longing must be to reveal the heavenly glory to the blind and insecure and straying and convey the atoning love to the suffering and the oppressed.”

Dear friends, may we indeed, the congregations of the Missouri District, be devoted to the Apostles’ Teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer in every place, until we reach the ultimate goal of the great multitude from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages standing before Jesus, the Lamb, who takes away the sin of the world! May God grant it to us all for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan, President



Resolutions Adopted Monday 6/13/22

**Denotes resolution was adopted as amended. See section "Resolutions Amended" for changes.*

Floor Committee 1 - Witness & Mercy

- *1-01: To Encourage Ministries, Congregations, and Schools to Participate in the District *SHINE!* Event
- *1-02: To Commend and Encourage Ministry to Immigrants and Refugees
- 1-03: To Commend and Encourage Lutheran Campus Ministry
- *1-04: To Encourage Congregational Support for the Military Personnel and their Families
- *1-05: To Encourage Congregational Participation in Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT)

Floor Committee 2 - Life Together

- 2-01: Tell the Next Generation: To Encourage the Equipping of Families in Faith Formation
- *2-02: To Encourage Congregations for Collaborate in Shared Ministry Opportunities
- *2-03: To Encourage Church Worker Recruitment
- 2-04: To Commend Lutheran Schools, Administrators and Teachers for Their Faithfulness, Especially During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- *2-05A: To Commend of Pastors and Parish Servants for their Service during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- 2-06: To Commend Faithful Care for the Vulnerable
- 2-07: To Commend the Use of Technology During COVID-19 to Proclaim Christ, and to Prioritize the Physical Gathering of the Church

Floor Committee 3 - Theology, Church, & Culture

- 3-01: To Encourage Synod to Clarify Our Stance of Fetal Tissues and Their Use Related to Pharmaceutical Products

Floor Committee 4 - Structure & Administration

- *4-01: To Reinstate Term Limits for Circuit Visitors within Missouri District Bylaws
- 4-02: To Amend District Bylaw II.D.1.d
- 4-03: To Address the Ongoing Financial Challenges of Current and Future Church Workers
- 4-04: To Memorialize Synod to Study Circuit Size Requirements
- 4-05A: To Amend District Bylaw Article X
- 4-06: To Transfer Holy Cross—Ste. Genevieve from the Altenburg Circuit to the Farmington Circuit

Resolutions Amended

Resolution 1-01

To Encourage Ministries, Congregations, and Schools to Participate in the District

SHINE! Event

R-1, pp. 30-34

Whereas, our Lord encourages His people to “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16); and

Whereas, the Holy Spirit works through the witness of God’s people to ~~connect~~ **make known** the Gospel to our communities; and

Whereas, the Missouri District’s inaugural statewide servant *SHINE!* event from April 16 – 25, 2021, was blessed beyond anything we imagined with over 5,100 servants of our Lord Jesus from approximately 130 diverse ministries, congregations, and schools, all seeing to the concerns of their communities; and

Whereas, excitement generated the second *SHINE!* event from April 22 – May 1, 2022, foreshadowing the desire for another statewide servant event in 2023 with an invitation for participation extended to several neighboring districts; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Missouri District in convention thanks God for the talents and skills He has given us and the ability to use them during *SHINE!* so that others may be pointed to Him: and be it further,

Resolved, that the Missouri District in convention thanks God for the enthusiasm He has given to Missouri District ministries, congregations, and schools for service; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Missouri District in convention encourages all ministries, congregations, and schools to participate in the third District *SHINE!* event during April 14 - 23, 2023.

Resolution 1-02

To Commend and Encourage Ministry ~~to~~ **With** Immigrants and Refugees

R-1 pp. 30-34, R-3 pp. 39-41

Whereas, the 2020 census reported that over 4% of the population of Missouri are foreign born persons whom Christ by His blood has “ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9); and

Whereas, the LORD proclaims His love for the sojourner and that He watches over the sojourner (Deuteronomy 10:18; Psalm 146:9); and

Whereas, the LORD calls His people to reflect His love for the sojourner by treating them with justice and kindness (Exodus 22:21; 23:29; Leviticus 19:33; Deuteronomy 10:19; Jeremiah 7:6; Zechariah 7:10; Malachi 3:5); and

Whereas, Christ has called His Church to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that He has commanded (Matthew 28:19-20); and

Whereas, Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA) faithfully cares for immigrants and refugees in St. Louis in body while also making disciples of them; and

Whereas, Lutheran Urban Mission Association of Kansas City (LUMA) has served faithfully in partnership and support of the Missouri District's outreach to refugees among the Oromo, Congolese, Mexican, Central and South American peoples; and

Whereas, church workers are prepared for service among refugees and immigrants through the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology and the Hispanic Institute of Concordia Seminary—St. Louis; and

Whereas, the congregations and schools of the Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have great opportunity to similarly serve sojourners independently or in partnership with CFNA and LUMA; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Convention commend CFNA, LUMA, the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology, the Hispanic Institute, congregations, congregation members, schools, and church workers who faithfully care for sojourners in body while also making disciples of them; and, be it further

Resolved, that the congregations, schools, and church workers of the Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be encouraged to care for the sojourners in body while also making disciples of them both independently and through support of and partnership with CFNA, LUMA, the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology, and the Hispanic Institute; and, be it finally

Resolved, that the Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Convention humbly implore the LORD, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to look with favor upon the sojourners among us and bless our efforts to care for them in body and make them His disciples.

Resolution 1-04

To Encourage Congregational Support for the Military Personnel and their Families

R-1 pp. 30-34, R-3 pp. 39-41

Whereas, the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) value the active, reserve, National Guard, and retired military who actively serve their congregations, spurring one another on toward love and good deeds and encouraging one another (Hebrews 10:24-25); and

Whereas, military communities have become an integral part of our congregations containing Christians who are uniquely positioned to share the Gospel with other military personnel; and

Whereas, Operation Barnabas provides support for military personnel and their families especially during long absences giving them strength to overcome adversities caused by those absences; and

Whereas, the military and the LCMS have collaborated to:

- provide Word and Sacrament ministry as an extension of the home congregation;
- establish a home away from home for military congregation members;
- support the military personnel through the challenges of military life;
- foster young adult retention of the military personnel;
- continue to connect with military personnel until permanently stationed; and

Whereas, ministry to military personnel has led retired military personnel to pursue a career in professional church work; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Missouri District in convention thank the Lord for our military congregation member who are stationed in our communities, and assist them to faithfully live in the Kingdom of man and the kingdom of God, and sharing the Gospel throughout the military community (Romans 13:1-2); and be it further

Resolved, that congregation members entering the military be encouraged to list their religious preference as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and not simply Christian or Protestant; and be it further

Resolved, the congregations be encouraged to continue sponsoring programs (Operation Barnabas, etc.) that help the military families to live the Christian life; and be it finally

Resolved, that members of Missouri District congregations be encouraged to communicate to military members at home and serving abroad in defense of our **religious** freedoms that they are always in our hearts and minds that they may have confidence in the Lord (Psalm 27).

Resolution 1-05

To Encourage Congregational Participation in Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT)

R-1, pp. 30-34

Whereas, the people of Missouri experience the effects of the broken world in storms, floods, and many other catastrophes as Romans 8:22 says, “For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now;” and

Whereas, we fear and love God by helping and supporting our neighbor in every physical need, including protecting their possessions and house; and

Whereas, events such as Hurricane Katrina and the Joplin tornado prompted our church body to consider how we might more effectively respond to disasters; and

Whereas, Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT) have become an intentional avenue for congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to bear witness to Christ and do works of mercy in the name of Christ; and

Whereas, in this last triennium trained LERT provided coordinated witness and mercy efforts following floods, tornadoes, and other catastrophic events throughout the state; and

Whereas, LERT trained individuals from Missouri District congregations have also responded to disasters outside Missouri; and

Whereas, the congregations of the Missouri District were critical in providing spiritual and physical care to the first responders serving in the midst of such catastrophes; and

Whereas, advance planning and preparation are essential to effective mercy response and assistance in disaster situations; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Missouri District in convention give thanks to God that congregations and individuals have eagerly provided effective emergency assistance and response to disasters especially through the work of LERT; and be it further,

Resolved, that the Missouri District in convention recognize and commend~~s~~ the work of LERT and encourages district congregations to do the same; and be it further

Resolved, that circuits and congregations be encouraged to sponsor and schedule LERT training events during the next triennium; and be it finally

Resolved, that the members of Missouri District congregations be encouraged to receive LERT training so that they are prepared and available to respond more effectively to disasters as Galatians 6:2 says, “Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Resolution 2-02

To Encourage Congregations to Collaborate in Shared Ministry Opportunities

R-1 pp. 30-34, R-3 pp. 39-41

Whereas, Shared Ministry is defined by Missouri District staff as: “Congregations coming together as stewards exercising their gifts with a clear vision for making disciples”; and

Whereas, as of 12/2019 (pre-COVID) There are 62 congregations with 35 or less in weekly worship in the Missouri District (21%); and

Whereas, as of 12/2019 (pre-COVID) The median size congregation has a worship attendance of 77 in the Missouri District; and

Whereas, shared ministry has shown opportunities to keep ministry locations viable and enhance their work for the sake of the gospel; and

Whereas, the Missouri District has hosted workshops for shared ministry among the circuit visitors, ten of our circuits, and five regional Equip and Encourage (E²) conferences; and

Whereas, Over the past four years the Missouri District has equipped and/or supported new shared ministry initiatives with a mission focus in over 20 congregations, including but not limited to:

- Arnold and Barnhart;
- Wentzville and New Melle;
- Messiah Independence and Congolese Refugee Ministry; and
- Rolla Circuit Children and Family Ministry Connector

Therefore, be it

Resolved, that every circuit be encouraged to participate in District Missions Shared Ministry Workshops; and be it further

Resolved, that mid-sized and large congregations be encouraged to explore ways they can proclaim the Gospel of Christ together through shared ministry with smaller partners; and be it further

Resolved, that church workers and congregations be encouraged to learn more about shared ministries proactively for their mission potential rather than a reaction to a crisis; and be it further

Resolved, that congregations experiencing vacancies be encouraged to ~~consider trained, intentional interim pastors~~ who can help them faithfully explore opportunities for mission in shared ministries; and be it further

Resolved, that the Missouri District continue to prioritize shared ministry as one of its main emphases during the next triennium; and be it finally

Resolved, that faithful pastors and church workers serving in shared ministries be commended and encouraged to participate in this process so that their congregations ~~be equipped~~ for the next generation of leaders and opportunities for shared ministry.

Resolution 2-03

To Encourage Church Worker Recruitment

Overture 2-01, pp. 73-74

Whereas, one of the objectives of Synod (Article III – 3 of Synod’s constitution) is to recruit and train pastors, teachers and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth; and

Whereas, the numbers of Missouri District students receiving Missouri District church worker endowment scholarship grants has gone from 177 in 2005 to 49 in 2020; and

Whereas, the total number of church work students across the Concordia University System has dropped at an alarming rate from 2,613 in the 2005-06 academic year to 787 in the 2020-21 academic year; and

Whereas, each year there is an average of three hundred more requests for placement of Lutheran Teacher Diploma graduates from Concordia University System (CUS) schools than are available; and

Whereas, there has also been a decline in other church work programs at the Concordia University System schools; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Missouri District leadership and staff work with Lutheran school teachers to develop resources and plans for promoting church work vocations within congregations and Lutheran elementary and high schools in Missouri; and be it further

Resolved, that the Missouri District leadership and staff work with youth ministry leaders to develop resources and plans for promoting church work vocation among youth across Missouri; and be it further

Resolved, that those serving as church workers be encouraged to express a God-pleasing attitude toward serving in the vocation of church-worker.

Resolved, that the Missouri District work with the schools of the Concordia University System to recruit students through congregational and District youth activities and promote church work vocations; and be it further

Resolved, that the congregations be encouraged to find creative ways to promote and support church work vocations among their children, youth, and adults; and be it further

Resolved, that each congregation regularly heed our Lord’s charge to “pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” by praying for young people to consider church work vocations; and be it finally

Resolved, that the convention chaplain lead the convention in a prayer for the schools, universities, and seminaries of the Church and that young people would consider church work vocations.

Resolution 4-01

To Reinstate Term Limits for Circuit Visitors within Missouri District Bylaws

Overture 4-01, p.93

Whereas, the Missouri District has been well-served in the past by pastors serving as Circuit Visitors with their service being limited to three consecutive terms; and,

Whereas, the wisdom of past generations ought not be passed over lightly; and,

Whereas, the bylaw revisions adopted at the 2018 Missouri District Convention inadvertently removed term limits for Circuit Visitors not out of malice but through editorial oversight; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the By-Laws of the Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be amended by the addition of the following sentence to Article II.F.2:

2. The president may serve an unlimited number of terms. No individual may be elected or appointed as secretary after three consecutive terms until at least three years have elapsed. No individual may be elected or appointed to the Board of Directors after two consecutive terms until at least three years have elapsed. No individual may be elected or appointed to the Council on Mission and Ministry after two consecutive terms until at least three years have elapsed. A vice president after three consecutive terms, regardless of ranking, may not be elected to any other vice president position until after three years have elapsed. ~~No individual may be elected or initially appointed as Circuit Visitor after three consecutive terms until after one term has elapsed.~~ **No individual may be elected or initially appointed as Circuit Visitor after three consecutive terms until after three years have elapsed.** Service for a period of one half or more of an unexpired term shall be counted as a full term.

Departed Saints

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Richard Adler | Emil Hoehne | Rev. Thomas Reeder, Sr. |
| Rev. Quentin Almstedt | Rev. Darrel Hoerle | Rev. Alfred Rodewald |
| Larry Andersen | Arnold Holzerland | Rev. James Rogers |
| Rev. Norman Bahlow | Leland Janssen | Rev. Dr. Wilbert Rosin |
| Rev. Lawrence Bradt | Rev. Donald Jenkins | Edgar Roth |
| Nadine Brandt | Richard Jostes | Rev. Dr. Ellis Rottmann |
| Rev. Dr. Stuart Brassie | Rev. Dr. Lowell Kennedy | Rev. Kim Scharff |
| Catherine Bude | Rev. Robert Kriete | Rev. William Schmelder |
| Rev. Lawrence Burgdorf | Janice Kroeger | Rev. Dr. John Schmidtke |
| Luther DeCuir | Rev. James Lange | Rev. Paul Schnelle |
| Rev. Merwin Desens | Robert Lehr | Rev. Dennis Schwab |
| Rev. Edwin Dubberke | Rev. Walter Lemmermann | Jerome Schwab |
| Rev. Robert Eggers | Rev. Jeffrey Lloyd | Rev. Laokouxang (Kou) Seying |
| Allen Engelbrecht | Rev. David Marth | Dennis Stewart |
| Timothy Fabry | Diane Maurer | Anne Telschow |
| Rev. Kenneth Frerking | Rev. Paul McCain | Larry Tiemann |
| Donald Gade | Rev. Norman Meyer | Rev. Dale Trimberger |
| James Garrison | Rev. Dr. William Meyer | William Unzicker |
| Rev. Jack Gillam | Delvin Meyr | Deaconess Audrey Vanderbles |
| Steven Greimann | Rev. Adam Mueller | Rev. William R. Voelker |
| Rev. Dr. Dale Griffin | Rev. Dr. Norman Nagel | Aileen Wallis |
| Rev. Lloyd Groenke | Ingrid Nebel | Rev. Dr. Richard Warneck |
| Rev. Lloyd Hackbarth | Rev. Dr. Frazier Odom | Marilyn Webern |
| Rev. Lloyd Helland | Donna Oetting | Rev. Eldon Winker |
| Rev. Ronald Hilmer | Rev. Leonard Poppe | Rev. Gerald Wittmaier |
| Duane Hingst | Neal Rabe | Rev. Wildred Ziekert |
| Rev. Donald Hoferkamp | Rev. James Rassbach | |