

CORRECTED MEMO



Missouri District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

MEMO TO: THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE MISSOURI DISTRICT

FROM: REV. SAMUEL POWELL, DISTRICT SECRETARY

DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

**RE: NOMINATIONS FOR DISTRICT PRESIDENT
NOMINATIONS FOR DISTRICT FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
NOMINATIONS FOR CIRCUIT VISITORS**

The Missouri District Convention is to be held June 22-24, 2025. Therefore, nominations for District President and First Vice President are due on or before December 22, 2024. This is six (6) months prior to the opening date of the convention. Nominations for Circuit Visitor are due on or before February 22, 2025, which is four (4) months prior to the opening date of the convention. Please read this entire letter carefully before completing the enclosed forms since some persons may not be eligible for certain offices according to the Bylaws adopted by the Missouri District.

Please note: If you previously submitted a nomination, you do not need to resubmit it.

Concerning NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, please note the following: Bylaw, Article II, D, 1 and Bylaw, Article II, D, 2a:

1. Nominations for the office of President and First Vice President shall be made in the following manner:
 - a. Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate two Ministers of Religion – Ordained from the official roster of the Synod as candidates for president of the district and two Ministers of Religion – Ordained from the official roster of the district as candidates for first vice president of the district;
 - b. The secretary of the district shall be responsible for the mailing of official ballots to each voting congregation of the district for nominating these candidates;
 - c. Each nominating ballot shall be signed by the president and the secretary of the voting congregation and shall be sent to district tellers not later than six months prior to the opening date of the convention;
 - d. A committee of three laypersons from the Board of Directors shall be appointed by the secretary of the district to tabulate the nomination results. The tellers shall report to the secretary the names of all Ministers of Religion

– Ordained who have received at least five nominating votes for the Offices of President and First Vice President. The secretary shall report to the convention by means of the convention workbook the names of all Ministers of Religion – Ordained who have received at least five nominating votes for the Offices of President and First Vice President;

- e. Groups and individuals within and without the district are urged to refrain from circulating the district or areas thereof relative to favoritism in nominations for president or first vice president.

2. Candidates for the Office of President and of First Vice President

- a. Candidates for the Office of President and of First Vice President shall be in each instance the four Ministers of Religion – Ordained receiving the highest number of votes in the nominating ballots of the congregations.

Concerning NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION FOR CIRCUIT VISITOR, please note the following provision in the 2023 Synodical Handbook, 5.2.2, pages 203-204:

5.2.2 The circuit visitor shall hold his position by virtue of his selection by the circuit forum and ratification by the district convention.

- (a) Circuit forums shall meet at the call of their circuit visitors to select their circuit visitors. When in-person meetings are burdensome (e.g., geographically large circuits), a circuit may select another manner of meeting (e.g., e-meeting technologies) that is suitable and made available to all participants, taking into consideration the need to provide for an open and fair exchange of ideas and secure, private, and confidential voting.
- (b) Prior to the day of the circuit forum, nominations for candidates for the office of circuit visitor may be submitted by a voting congregation of the circuit and suggested by the district president, in consultation with the praesidium of the district.
- (c) Each circuit may adopt procedures and methods that will insure efficiency and accuracy, including the use of mechanical, electronic, or other methods of casting, recording, or tabulating votes. The privilege of voting shall be exercised by the representatives from each member congregation of the circuit, who shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by the congregation (Bylaw 5.3.2).
- (d) All nominated pastors serving congregations and emeriti pastors whose names were nominated prior to the day of the circuit forum shall be eligible for election in accordance with section 4.3 of these Bylaws.
 - (1) Following presentations of pertinent information regarding each pastor as listed in Bylaw 3.12.3.6 (c) and circuit visitor

responsibilities as provided hereafter in this bylaw, each voter shall submit the names of two pastors on the initial ballot.

- (2) The three pastors (or more in case of a tie vote) who receive the highest number of votes in this preliminary ballot shall be placed on the next ballot. Each voter shall vote for only one candidate.
 - (3) Balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until one pastor shall have received a simply majority of all votes cast, who shall be declared the nominee.
- (e) Immediately following the circuit forum, the circuit visitor shall report in writing the results of the selection process to the secretary of the district in preparation for ratification by the district convention.
 - (f) In the event that a circuit visitor has not been selected by a circuit forum or has been selected but is no longer available to serve, thus resulting in no circuit visitor selection being included on the convention slate of circuit visitors for a circuit, the district president shall make the selection, which selection shall then be included on the convention slate of circuit visitors.
 - (g) The convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment.
 - (h) The convention shall then ratify the slate of circuit visitors, which ratification shall constitute election.

Missouri District Bylaw Article II, F indicates the following concerning terms of office:

1. The term of office of the president, vice presidents, secretary, and circuit visitors shall be three years. The term of office for elected members of the Board of Directors, other than those serving ex officio, shall be six years. The term of office for elected members of the Council on Mission and Ministry shall be six years. Terms of appointed members of the Board of Directors and of the Council on Mission and Ministry shall be three years, with appointments being made subsequent to the installation of elected officers, board, and council members after each district convention.
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 elected 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.
3. The terms of office of members of appointive committees shall be three years. The terms of office shall begin on the date of their induction and terminate at the induction of their successors after the next convention.
 4. No individual may be elected or appointed to the same committee after three consecutive terms until at least three years have elapsed. Service for a period of one half or more of an unexpired term shall be counted as a full term.
 5. No one, either in the Synod or in a district or between the Synod and a district shall hold more than one elected office; or more than two offices, although one or both be appointive; or ever hold two offices of which one is directly responsible for the work done by the other. Doubtful cases shall be decided by the president of the Synod. The foregoing restriction shall not apply to members of the Committee on Nominations.
 6. All elections and appointments shall be conducted as provided for in Bylaw section 4.7 of the Synod and in the bylaws of the district.

Enclosed are nominating ballots for president and first vice president, to be acted upon by your congregation and signed by the president and secretary of your congregation. Ballots for president and first vice president are to be sent to Mr. Brian Mitchell, chairman of the tellers for president and first vice president. Ballots for circuit visitor are enclosed, if one has not yet been submitted, and are to be sent to the district secretary, Rev. Samuel Powell.

Every congregation is urged to observe the deadlines indicated on the enclosed nominations forms so that these nominations can be processed according to district and synod provisions.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Samuel Powell
Secretary, Missouri District

NOTE: The Missouri District convention will be held June 22-24, 2025, at the Holiday Inn Executive Center and Expo in Columbia, Missouri. Congregations are urged to elect their voting lay delegate and alternate lay delegate as soon as possible. A form for listing these delegates will be sent to you from the district office in October. They can also be found on our website at <https://mo.lcms.org/district-convention/>.