



MEMO TO: THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE MISSOURI DISTRICT

FROM: REV. SAMUEL POWELL, DISTRICT SECRETARY

DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2024

**RE: DISTRICT CONVENTION DELEGATE FORMS
CONGREGATIONAL OVERTURES TO THE CONVENTION**

The Missouri District Convention is to be held June 22-24, 2025. Therefore, all delegate forms for lay, pastoral, and alternate delegates are due on or before January 13, 2025. Overtures are due on or before January 24, 2025. 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 and the Synod.

Please note: If you previously submitted a delegate form, overture, or report, you do not need to resubmit it.

Concerning LAY, PASTORAL, AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES TO THE DISTRICT CONVENTION, please note the following provision in the 2023 Synodical Handbook, 4.2.2, pages 196-197:

4.2.2 The delegates of a voting congregation or multi-congregation parish to a district convention shall be accredited.

- (a) To be entitled to vote, delegates shall return the proper credentials provided by the district secretary and signed by two of the congregation's officers, either by mailing them to the district office at a date determined by the district or by presenting them to the district secretary at the opening of the convention.
- (b) All duly elected voting delegates shall attend all sessions of the convention regularly until the close of the convention.
- (c) Should a multi-congregation parish involve congregations having membership in different districts, the pastoral delegate shall be accredited in the convention of the district in which he holds membership and lay delegates, voting and advisory, shall be accredited in the convention of the district in which each delegate's respective congregation holds membership. No multi-congregation parish is entitled to more than one pastoral and one lay voting delegate because of its inclusion of congregations from different districts.

Concerning VOTING AND ADVISORY DELEGATES TO THE DISTRICT CONVENTION, please note the following from the Missouri District Convention Handbook:

1. Voting delegates are those who have been officially elected by congregations that are members of the Synod. Only those pastors who have been properly certified by the Synod may serve as voting delegates. Each lay delegate is entitled to vote, provided that a registration form has been properly signed by officers of the congregation. If the congregation is a member of the Synod and the pastor has signed the constitution, he may vote. Only one pastor of a voting congregation is entitled to vote. Retired pastors and commissioned ministers may not serve as lay delegates.
2. Advisory delegates include the following: directors of Christian education, deaconesses, teachers, professors, executives, missionaries at large, those temporarily out of office, assistants, associates, and chaplains. These may have speaking privileges on the floor of the Convention with permission obtained from the Chairman of the Convention or the consent of Floor Committees.
 - Witness and Mercy
 - Life Together
 - Theology, Church, and Culture
 - Structure and Administration
3. Only advisory and voting delegates may speak on the floor of the Convention. Each speaker will be limited to two minutes.

The pastor or designated associate pastor of a voting congregation shall stand accredited and entitled to vote if he is on Synod's clergy roster and called and installed at the voting congregation. The lay delegate of a voting congregation shall have the same privilege upon presentation of proper credentials signed by the president and secretary of the congregation. *Please note:* Multi-congregation parishes shall be entitled to one pastoral delegate per multi-congregation parish and one lay delegate from each member congregation.

Concerning CONGREGATIONAL OVERTURES TO THE DISTRICT CONVENTION, please note the following provision in the 2023 Synodical Handbook, 4.2.1, page 196:

- 4.2.1 Conventions of the districts shall afford opportunities for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information. They are the principal legislative assemblies, which amend the district's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, consider and take action on reports and overtures, and handle appropriate appeals.
 - (a) The conventions of the districts shall be governed by the bylaws adopted by the Synod for its conventions, insofar as these may be applicable.
 - (b) The district convention is the instrument to receive overtures (Bylaw 3.1.6.2), including overtures and recommendations for synodwide

mission and ministry emphases submitted by member congregations and adopted by a circuit forum.

- (c) Following in-depth study and discussion, the district convention shall act on the overtures and may, as determined by the convention, submit overtures to the national convention.
- (d) The district convention shall, through delegate vote, forward to the national convention a list of two or three triennial mission and ministry emphases for consideration by the national convention.
- (e) Each district may adopt other regulations, provided these are not contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.
- (f) The president of the district shall conduct the sessions according to accepted parliamentary rules and shall so arrange the schedule of business that the sessions do not extend beyond six business days.
- (g) Districts may, at their own discretion, provide their convention workbooks and proceedings to each district congregation, delegate and alternate, officer, board, commission, and council member by a means of electronic communication, provided that any designated recipient shall be provided a printed copy of the workbook and proceedings upon request.

Enclosed are the lay and pastoral delegate forms, to be acted upon by your congregation and signed by the president and secretary of your congregation. Lay, pastoral, and alternate delegate forms are to be sent to President R. Lee Hagan at the Missouri District office. All voting and advisory delegates will also need to register online at the district website. Online registration will be open beginning on December 13, 2024 and will close on June 13, 2025.

The Word template for congregational overtures to the Missouri District Convention is available on our website at <https://mo.lcms.org/district-convention/>. Overtures are to be sent to the Missouri District office both by email and mail, as detailed in the template instructions.

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

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Samuel Powell
Secretary, Missouri District