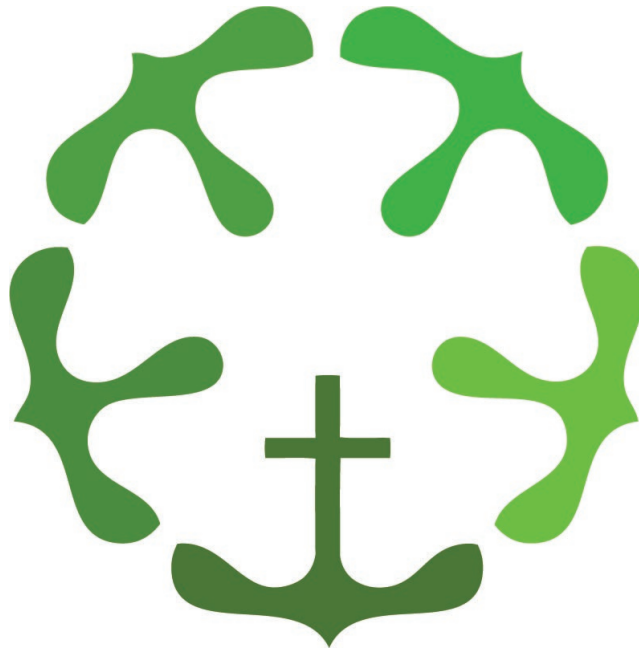


**The Missouri District
of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**

Missouri District Bylaws
as approved at the
22nd Regular Convention
June 22-24, 2025 Columbia, MO



Missouri District Board of Directors
August 2025

Article I – ORGANIZATION

A. NAME

The name of the district organized under these bylaws shall be: The Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (hereinafter referred to as “district”).

B. CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (hereinafter referred to as “Synod”) is the constitution of the district, as the Constitution of Synod presently exists or as it may hereafter be amended. The Bylaws of the Synod shall be primarily the bylaws of the district. Additional bylaws may be adopted as necessary or proper for administration of the district or for effectively carrying on the work of the Synod. Such bylaws shall not conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. [cf. Synod Bylaw 4.1.1.2 (a)]

C. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the district shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

D. CONVENTIONS

1. The district shall meet in convention in the year preceding the general convention of the Synod.
2. District conventions shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and also by such specific provisions governing convention proceedings as may be defined in the bylaws of the district.

E. CIRCUIT ACTIVITIES

1. Circuits shall be realigned as necessary, in keeping with the Synod Bylaws.
2. Congregations in a circuit may plan circuit-wide work cooperatively, and such planning should be done in conjunction with the district department corresponding to the specific planning involved.
3. Two or more circuits may meet together in joint planning and cooperative efforts.
4. Circuits of the district shall convene in circuit forums and circuit convocations in accordance with Synod Bylaws.

Article II - ADMINISTRATION

A. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

1. The president is the chief executive of the district. Upon his request, or as may be provided by the bylaws of the district, he shall be assisted by the vice presidents and the circuit visitors in supervising the doctrine, practice and life of the Ministers of Religion – Ordained, Ministers of Religion – Commissioned, and congregations of the district.
2. The president shall supervise the work program of the district.



3. The staff and the Council on Mission and Ministry shall be directly responsible to the president and shall report plans and major decisions for approval with power of appeal to the convention.
4. The Council on Mission and Ministry and all committees shall make reports to each district convention.
5. All officers, the Board of Directors, the Council on Mission and Ministry, and committees shall be ultimately responsible to the district convention.
6. The District shall maintain and monitor a conflict of interest policy consistent with Synod Bylaw 1.5.2.

B. OFFICERS

The elected officers shall be:

1. A full-time president
2. Four vice presidents
3. A secretary
4. A visitor for each circuit of the district

The appointed officer shall be a treasurer.

C. STAFF

1. The Board of Directors shall establish the necessary staff positions to achieve the overall objectives of the district within the constraints of the district budget.
2. Upon recommendation from the president, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to issue divine calls.
3. The Board of Directors may delegate to the president and others the authority to appoint and dismiss staff members, but the Board of Directors alone has the authority to dismiss a divinely called staff member.

D. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND FIRST VICE PRESIDENT AND CIRCUIT VISITORS

1. Nominations for the Office of President and of 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 clergy 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 6 months prior to the opening date of the convention;



- 73 d. A committee of three laypersons from the Board of Directors shall be appointed as tellers
74 by the secretary to tabulate the nomination results. The tellers shall report to the secretary
75 the names of all Ministers of Religion – Ordained who have received nominations for the
76 Offices of President and First Vice President. The secretary shall report to the convention
77 by means of the convention workbook the names and number of nominations of all
78 Ministers of Religion – Ordained who have received at least one nomination for the
79 Offices of President and First Vice President;
- 80 e. Groups and individuals within and without the district are urged to refrain from
81 circularizing the district or areas thereof relative to favoritism in nominations for president
82 or first vice president.

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

- 84 a. Candidates for the Office of President and of First Vice President shall be in each instance
85 the four Ministers of Religion – Ordained receiving the highest number of nominations in
86 the nominating ballots of the congregations, provided they receive more than one
87 nomination.
- 88 b. The secretary of the district shall notify each candidate and shall secure his approval in
89 writing for inclusion of his name on the convention ballot. Each candidate shall reply
90 within 10 days as to his willingness to serve as a nominee.
- 91 c. In the event of the death, declination, or unavailability of any candidate, the nominee
92 having the next highest number of nominations shall become a candidate.
- 93 d. In the event of a tie for the fourth position among the candidates, all names involved in the
94 tie shall be listed as candidates.
- 95 e. The secretary of the district shall be responsible for the publication of brief biographies of
96 each candidate. These shall be included in the convention workbook.
- 97 f. The convention shall have the right to offer nominations from the floor. Any delegate
98 making a nomination from the floor shall have secured prior written consent of the
99 candidate whom he wishes to nominate. Such delegate shall immediately submit to the
100 secretary of the district this document and written pertinent information concerning his
101 nominee.

102 3. Election of president and of first vice president

- 103 a. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates for president and
104 one of the candidates for first vice president.
- 105 b. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
- 106 c. If no candidate received a majority of the votes cast the three candidates receiving the
107 highest number of votes shall be retained on the ballot and another vote shall be taken.
108 Thereafter, the candidate(s) receiving the least number of votes shall be eliminated on each
109 subsequent ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. The candidate-
110 elect must indicate by the first session of the following day his acceptance or rejection of
111 his election.



4. Nomination and election of circuit visitors shall be in accordance with Synod Bylaw 5.2.2.

E. BOARD, COUNCIL, AND COMMITTEES

1. The Board of Directors is directly responsible to the district convention.
2. The committees which are directly responsible to the district convention shall be:
 - a. A Constitution Committee (appointive)
 - b. A Committee on Nominations (elected)
 - c. A Committee of Elections (appointive)
3. The Council on Mission and Ministry is directly responsible to the president.
4. All committees shall be under the ecclesiastical supervision of the president.
5. The president may appoint committees and task forces as required to assist the staff in their work.
6. All convention floor committees shall be directly responsible to the president.

F. 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.

G. INSTALLATION AND INDUCTION

1. The installation of the president and the induction of the vice presidents, secretary, Council on Mission and Ministry, and Board of Directors, elected at the convention, shall be held within eight weeks following the election and shall be announced as soon as possible after the convention.
2. Circuit visitors shall be inducted at the conclusion of the convention.
3. The appointive members shall be inducted at the next meeting of their respective board or council.

H. INTERIM AUTHORITY

1. Before his successor assumes office, the outgoing president shall use the intervening time to settle the affairs of his administration and assist the newly elected president, as requested, to become acquainted with the responsibilities of the office.
2. In the interim, the newly elected president shall meet with the newly elected and/or re-elected vice presidents to assess the state of the district, to plan for the communication and carrying out of the resolutions adopted at the convention, to assign areas of responsibility to the vice presidents, to gather names and obtain information helpful for making wise appointments. He shall meet with the necessary district staff to discuss convention reports and actions, and to assess with them, and the financial officers, the financial status of the district and to estimate the financial resources available.
3. The Board of Directors shall determine remuneration for the newly elected president during the interim period between election and installation.
4. Remuneration for the outgoing president shall be continued for three months beyond the end of his term unless he is otherwise gainfully employed or has retired from full-time employment. Any extension beyond this period shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
5. The existing Board of Directors and other officers, council, commissions, and committees shall continue to function until the newly elected, re-elected, and appointed officers of the district and members of the council, commissions, and committees assume office.
6. The newly elected members of the Board of Directors and council as well as other appointed board, council, and committee members shall attend whatever meetings are held in the interim, without vote, to become acquainted with their responsibilities and functions.

Article III – THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. MEMBERSHIP



1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the following members, all with a vote:
 - a. The president of the district (Minister of Religion – Ordained)
 - b. The first vice president of the district (Minister of Religion – Ordained)
 - c. The secretary of the district (Minister of Religion – Ordained)
 - d. Two (2) Ministers of Religion – Ordained, elected at large
 - e. Two (2) Ministers of Religion – Commissioned, elected at large
 - f. Three (3) laypersons, elected at large
 - g. The members of the Board of Directors elected by the convention shall appoint the treasurer of the district at the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the convention. The treasurer shall be a layperson.
 - h. The members of the Board of Directors elected by the convention “shall also have the authority to choose to appoint to the board up to three voting lay members from the district’s congregations to obtain additional skill sets (legal, finance, investment, administration, etc.)” (Synod bylaw 4.5.1).
 - i. Elected members of the Board of Directors, other than the secretary, the president, and the first vice president, shall serve six (6) year terms. The term of appointive members of the Board of Directors shall expire at the installation of a newly elected Board of Directors.

B. ORGANIZATION

1. The secretary shall be the Secretary of the Board of Directors. The members of the Board of Directors elected at the convention shall elect the chairman, vice chairman, and such other officers of the board as deemed necessary at the first meeting of the triennium. The chairman and vice chairman shall be elected from those members of the Board of Directors elected by the convention.
2. The Board of Directors shall meet at least quarterly and shall keep accurate minutes of its meetings.
3. Special meetings may be called by the chairman or upon request of three board members. Those calling a special meeting shall set the date of such meeting. The office of the president shall notify each board member of such special meeting and its purpose.
4. A majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors must be present at a properly called meeting to constitute a quorum.
5. The chairman shall conduct the meetings and be responsible for the agenda of each meeting.
6. In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Directors, the remaining members of the board elected by the convention may elect a successor for the unexpired term.
7. The Board of Directors shall establish, maintain, and follow policy and procedure manuals.
8. Special committees may be appointed within the Board of Directors at its discretion according to Synod Bylaws 1.5.3.2 and 1.5.3.3.

C. AUTHORITY



The authority of the Board of Directors shall be in accordance with Synod Bylaw 4.5.1.

D. DUTIES

Except as otherwise expressly provided in these bylaws, the Board of Directors shall hold responsibility for the district between conventions. To this end it shall:

1. At least annually review with the president the District's strategic plan;
2. Receive and act on the recommendations of the president, council, and committees assigned by the Board of Directors;
3. Coordinate the district's work with Synod's; 4.5.1 (c)
4. Submit proposed annual support goals to the congregations;
5. Establish an annual budget of the district on the basis of the share of the Lord's work assumed by the congregations;
6. Balance the budget as nearly as possible and be authorized to do any and all such things as may be necessary or expedient to accomplish this end;
7. Work with the president and appropriate staff to establish district policies to acquire, hold, lease, mortgage, pledge, sell, convey, or otherwise dispose of property (real or personal, tangible or intangible) on behalf of the Missouri District. The Board will have final-approval authority for the purchase or sale of all real property;
8. Report to the convention of the district;
9. Approve the site of the district convention upon recommendation of the president;
10. Provide for an annual audit of the district's financial records;
11. Engage legal counsel to advise the district regarding legal matters;
12. Conduct an annual review with the president and appropriate staff to ensure that the district has appropriate insurance coverage;
13. Appoint an archivist;
14. Supervise and oversee all affairs of the district not otherwise assigned.

Article IV - DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

All officers of the district, whether elected or appointed, shall discharge the duties assigned to them in the Synod Constitution and Bylaws and the district bylaws.

A. DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

The president shall:

1. Exercise ecclesiastical supervision over the doctrine, practice, life, and administration of all elected, called, and appointed officers and the Ministers of Religion – Ordained, and Ministers of Religion – Commissioned of the district;

2. Perform the duties set forth in Synod Bylaw 4.4 and Synod Constitution Article XII and especially serve as chief executive of the district who leads the Board of Directors in the formulation of the district's vision, mission and strategies and in their implementation;
3. Be a member of the Board of Directors;
4. Convene the circuit visitors at least annually;
5. Be a non-voting ex-officio member of all committees including those for professional conferences except the Committee on Nominations;
6. Designate one of the vice presidents as his representative to any commission or committee he may deem advisable;
7. Make such appointments as are directed by the district through its bylaws or resolutions;
8. Appoint all necessary committees and an assistant secretary for the convention;
9. Be responsible that the resolutions of the Synod, and district and Board of Directors are implemented and coordinated;
10. Make sure that the district personnel, staff, boards, task forces, and committees are working together in harmony to implement the mission, vision and strategies adopted by the convention and the Board of Directors;
11. Be responsible for an up-to-date procedures manual necessary for the effective and efficient operation of the district;
12. Be responsible for procedures necessary for the effective and efficient operation of the convention;
13. Have responsibility for supervising the staff according to their respective assignment of duties. He may appoint members of the staff to assist him;
14. Ensure that the needs of district congregations (especially those enumerated in Article V.D) are addressed.

B. DUTIES OF THE VICE PRESIDENTS

The vice presidents shall:

1. Advise, assist or represent the president at his request or as may be provided by the district convention;
2. Serve in an advisory capacity as representatives of the president on the council and various committees as directed by the president.

C. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

The secretary shall:

1. Serve as secretary of the district convention, be a member of the Board of Directors, and serve as its secretary;
2. Be a voting member of the Constitution Committee;

- 295 3. Be responsible for keeping on file the minutes of all groups of which he is secretary and place
296 these minutes into the archives of district and Synod;
- 297 4. Perform such other secretarial duties as are assigned by the Board of Directors, the president,
298 and the district convention, and as are set forth in the Synod Bylaws.

299 **D. DUTIES OF THE TREASURER**

300 The treasurer shall:

- 301 1. Monitor the receipts and disbursements of the district's monies and the accurate accounting
302 thereof and shall report regularly to the Board of Directors;
- 303 2. Keep the Board of Directors advised on fiscal matters, loans and interest policies, and matters
304 of investment;
- 305 3. Be authorized to borrow money or make investments in the name of the district as directed by
306 the Board of Directors;
- 307 4. Be responsible for adequate records of income and expenditures according to policies
308 established by the Board of Directors;
- 309 5. Maintain a close working relationship with any staff responsible for finances;
- 310 6. Convey all records to his successor at the end of his term of office;

311 **E. DUTIES OF THE CIRCUIT VISITORS**

312 The circuit visitors shall:

- 313 1. Perform the duties set forth in Synod Bylaw 5.2.3 ff.;
- 314 2. Together with the president and the vice presidents meet at least once each year at the call of
315 the president in the interest of the work and welfare of the district and the Synod;
- 316 3. In consultation with the pastors of his circuit and approval of the district president (Synod
317 Bylaw 5.2.1 [c]), shall appoint assistants as may be required;
- 318 4. Be chairman of circuit meetings and conferences;
- 319 5. Alert circuit congregations of opportunities for the establishment of new ministries within the
320 circuit.

321 **F. DUTIES OF THE STAFF**

322 The staff shall:

- 323 1. Function under the supervision of the president as outlined in their job description;
- 324 2. Assist congregations, the board, the council, committees, and task forces to further the
325 dissemination of the Gospel;
- 326 3. Work cooperatively with the Synod's Offices of National and International Mission to assist
327 district congregations to be involved in the worldwide dissemination of the Gospel;
- 328 4. Assist district officers, professional church workers, and congregation
329 lay leaders as requested or assigned.

330

331 **Article V – COUNCIL ON MISSION AND MINISTRY**

332 **A. RESPONSIBILITY**

- 333 1. The council shall be responsible to the president.
- 334 2. The responsibilities of the council shall include the development of appropriate educational
- 335 activities according to their functions as outlined in Article V section D.
- 336 3. The president may assign a vice president or a voting member of the Board of Directors to
- 337 represent him on the council as an advisory member.
- 338 4. The president may assign district staff to advise the council.

339 **B. MEMBERSHIP**

340 Council members shall:

- 341 1. Be elected by the convention with two (2) Ministers of Religion – Ordained, two (2) Ministers
- 342 of Religion – Commissioned, and two (2) laypersons;
- 343 2. As many as three additional council members may be recommended by the council chairman,
- 344 approved by the president and appointed by the Board of Directors; the term of appointive
- 345 members of the Council shall expire at the installation of a newly elected Council;
- 346 3. Appointees to the council shall have a minimum of three years professional or volunteer
- 347 experience appropriate to the council responsibilities;
- 348 4. Include the president or his appointee.

349 **C. REGULATIONS**

350 The council shall:

- 351 1. Choose its chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary from those council members elected by the
- 352 district convention at its first meeting after the district convention;
- 353 2. Report through its chairman to the president and provide a copy of its minutes for district files;
- 354 3. Meet as regularly as its responsibilities require;
- 355 4. Make a detailed report of its activities at each district convention.

356 **D. FUNCTIONS**

357 The council shall provide assistance to the president and staff of the district to:

- 358 1. Promote and implement convention resolutions relative to the congregations, schools and
- 359 ordained and commissioned ministers of the district;
- 360 2. Oversee the planning and implementation of district events relative to support of
- 361 congregations, including the areas of outreach, family life and youth;
- 362 3. “Assist and advise local congregations in the development and promotion of an adequate
- 363 stewardship program” (Synod bylaw 4.6.1.a);
- 364 4. Make recommendations to the Board of Directors relative to congregational needs;



- 365 5. Work together with district staff to implement the mission, vision and strategies adopted by the
366 Board of Directors.

367
368 **Article VI - CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

369 **A. MEMBERSHIP**

- 370 1. The Constitution Committee shall consist of five voting members: one Minister of Religion -
371 Ordained who shall be chairman, the district secretary, one Minister of Religion -
372 Commissioned, and two laypersons, appointed by the president subject to the approval of the
373 Board of Directors.

374 **B. DUTIES**

375 The Constitution Committee shall:

- 376 1. Act as a review committee for all proposals affecting the bylaws of the district and shall make
377 recommendations regarding proposed changes to the district convention;
378 2. Embody in the district bylaws such changes as necessitated by convention actions of the
379 district and the Synod;
380 3. Have the continuing responsibility to arrange for printing and distributing the bylaws in their
381 corrected and current form;
382 4. Act in an advisory capacity to the district and the president in the interpretation of the district
383 bylaws;
384 5. Function either directly or through a commission under its immediate supervision for
385 reviewing new and revised constitutions and bylaws of member and applicant congregations as
386 provided for in the Synod's Bylaws on constitutions of congregations [cf. Synod Bylaw
387 sections 2.1 – 2.4].
388

389 **Article VII - DISTRICT RECONCILERS**

390 **A. MEMBERSHIP**

391 District reconcilers shall be appointed by the district Board of Directors in compliance with
392 1.10.10 ff. of the Synod Bylaws.

393 **B. RESPONSIBILITY**

- 394 1. Reconcilers shall function according to the Bylaws of the Synod (Synod Bylaw section 1.10).
395 2. The district reconcilers may be called upon by the president to assist in conflicted situations.
396

397 **Article VIII - ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES**

398 **A. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. The following shall be elected at each convention: The president, the vice presidents, the secretary, members of the Board of Directors, members of the Council on Mission and Ministry, the circuit visitors, and the Committee on Nominations.
2. All appointive offices shall be filled after the convention.
3. In making appointments, the Board of Directors and president shall give consideration to provide a cross-section of representation throughout the district.
4. The district convention shall elect to a six-year term on the Board of Directors one (1) Minister of Religion — Ordained, elected at large and one (1) Minister of Religion — Commissioned, elected at large, and two (2) laypersons, elected at large. At alternating district conventions laypersons shall be elected at large to six year terms, with two (2) being elected at one convention and one (1) being elected at the following convention.
5. Each district convention shall elect to a six-year term on the Council on Mission and Ministry one (1) Minister of Religion — Ordained, one (1) Minister of Religion — Commissioned, and one (1) layperson.

B. COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

1. A Committee on Nominations consisting of two Ministers of Religion – Ordained, two Ministers of Religion – Commissioned, and two laypersons, endeavoring to be representative of all areas of the district is to be elected as a standing committee at each convention.
2. The members of the Committee on Nominations shall serve one term of three years and are eligible to serve again after at least three years have elapsed. A list of candidates for membership on this committee shall be submitted to the convention by the outgoing Committee on Nominations.
3. The president shall convene and orientate the Nominating Committee at least eighteen (18) months prior to the convention. The president shall appoint the chairman from among the elected members of the Nominating Committee.
4. Duties of Committee on Nominations:
 - a. The Committee on Nominations shall circularize the Ministers of Religion – Ordained and congregations of the district for names and qualifications of Ministers of Religion – Ordained, Ministers of Religion – Commissioned, and laypersons to serve as secretary, members of the Board of Directors, or members of the Council on Mission and Ministry.
 1. Ministers of Religion – Ordained to serve as district secretary, members of the Council on Mission and Ministry, and at-large member of the Board of Directors.
 2. Ministers of Religion – Commissioned to serve as at-large members of the Board of Directors and members of the Council on Mission and Ministry.
 3. Laypersons to serve as-members of the Board of Directors and the Council on Mission and Ministry.
 - b. The committee itself shall, when sufficient recommendations are not submitted by the announced deadline, place eligible candidates on the ballot.

- c. In presenting a slate to the convention, the committee shall supply a brief biographical sketch of each candidate appearing on the ballot. All names shall be listed alphabetically on the official ballot.
- d. The committee shall endeavor to represent all the areas of the district in nominating at least two candidates for each elected office for which the committee is responsible for providing nominations. The committee shall further endeavor to represent the needed skill sets for the Board of Directors (legal, finance, investment, administration) and the Council on Mission and Ministry. The convention reserves the right to place additional names on the ballot. No candidate shall be nominated by the nominating committee for more than one position with the exception of membership on the Committee on Nominations.
- e. Nominations for the district representative and alternate for the Synod's Committee for Convention Nomination shall be according to Synod Bylaw 3.12.3 ff.

C. COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

1. A Committee on Elections consisting of four Ministers of Religion – Ordained, two Ministers of Religion – Commissioned, and four laypersons shall be appointed by the president.
2. Duties of the Committee on Elections:
 - a. The Committee on Elections shall conduct and supervise all elections of the district according to the elections manual of the Missouri District. The committee shall be authorized to interrupt any Convention business for the purpose of conducting the election.
 - b. The election shall proceed according to the following order: president, first vice president, other vice presidents, secretary, Board of Directors, Council on Mission and Ministry, the ratification of circuit visitors, and the committee on nominations.
 - c. Primary and election ballots shall be collected during the sessions in which they were distributed.
 - d. A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elected offices and elected board positions.
 - e. The election of the president and first vice president shall follow the procedure of District Bylaw II.D.3.
 - f. Elections other than that of president and vice-president shall follow the procedure of Synod Bylaw 4.7.3.
 - g. The elections for the second, third, and fourth vice presidents shall proceed as follows.
 1. Nominations shall be by direct nominating ballot of eligible pastors from the district. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to place in nomination as many persons as there are vice presidents to be elected. The persons receiving the greatest number of nominations shall be the candidates in the election for vice presidents, the number of candidates to be three times the number of offices to be filled.
 2. The rank of vice presidents shall be determined by the order of their election or, if more than one is elected in the same voting, by the number of votes received by each.



D. VACANCIES

1. If the Office of President becomes vacant, the first vice president shall serve as president until the next presidential election. The new president may serve part-time, with the consent of the Board of Directors, until the next election.
2. If the president becomes incapacitated, his work shall be assumed temporarily by the first vice president. The decision as to when the president has become incapacitated and when he is no longer incapacitated shall be made by the Board of Directors.
3. A vacancy in any vice presidency shall be filled by advancing the lower-ranking vice presidents. The resulting vacancy may be filled by an appointment of the Board of Directors. A slate of nominees shall be made by the praesidium from candidates for the vice presidency at the previous convention.
4. If the office of circuit visitor becomes vacant, the office shall be filled by presidential appointment.
5. Vacancies on board, council, and committees shall be filled in a manner as prescribed in the district bylaws governing board, council, and committee administration.

Article IX – OFFICIAL DISTRICT CONFERENCES

A. PURPOSE

The Missouri District shall conduct Official Conferences for Ministers of Religion – Ordained and Ministers of Religion – Commissioned in compliance with 4.8.1 of the Synod Bylaws.

B. RECOGNITION OF OFFICIAL CONFERENCES

1. The Official Missouri District Conferences for Ministers of Religion – Ordained shall be the Missouri District Pastors Conference or the Missouri District Professional Church Workers Conference.
2. The Official Missouri District Conferences for Ministers of Religion – Commissioned shall be the Missouri District Professional Church Workers Conference, the Missouri District Educators Conference, or the Lutheran Education Associational National Convocation.

C. COMPOSITION OF OFFICIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

1. Three pastors will be selected by the Missouri District Pastors Conference following the District Convention to serve as members of the conference committee, along with the praesidium.
2. The Ministers of Religion – Commissioned Educators' Conference Committee (Educators' Conference) shall consist of the president, Director of Schools, and representative educators from across the Missouri District (including high schools, elementary schools and early childhood programs) to be appointed by the president.
3. The Professional Church Workers' Conference Committee shall consist of the president and an assistant to the president. The president shall also appoint two vice-presidents, three of the Ministers of Religion – Ordained selected by the Pastors Conference, four representative

educators from across the Missouri District (including high schools, elementary schools and early childhood programs), and one Minister of Religion – Commissioned who is not serving primarily in an educational setting.

Article X - AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments to these district bylaws may be made provided that they are: (a) not contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod (Synod Bylaw 4.1.1.2 [a]); and (b) have been submitted to and approved by the Commission on Constitutional Matters (Synod Bylaws 3.9.2.2.3; 4.1.1.2 [b]) prior to being considered by the district convention; and (c) having been explicitly identified as bylaw amendments, are adopted by an affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting at a properly called district convention.
2. The district in convention may, when prior submission and approval of final bylaw language to the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters is not possible, vote to amend its articles or bylaws provided the resolution is contingent on approval of 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 a two-thirds vote.
3. When necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly directed by a resolution of the Synod in convention, amendments may be made by a two-thirds majority of the district board of directors. Such amendments shall be drafted by the district secretary and shall be reviewed in advance by the LCMS Commission on Constitutional Matters.