



Resolutions

Today's Business

January 16, 2022

Colossians 3:1

LET THE
ROOTS OF
CHRIST
DWELL
IN YOU
RICHLY

Northern Illinois District 2022 Convention Resolutions

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RESOLUTION: 1-01: ADOPTION OF “WORD, WELLNESS, WITNESS” AS THE
NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT’S MINISTRY FOCUS
Referencing Overture 1-06

WHEREAS, our Lord has given us His inspired Word to make us wise for
salvation through faith in Christ Jesus and to equip us for every good work [II
Timothy 3:14-17], and

WHEREAS, our Lord has blessed us in wellness, giving us our very lives and richly
and daily providing us with all we need to support this body and life. [Luther’s Small
Catechism, The Creed, The First Article Explanation], and

WHEREAS, our Lord has called us to witness the gift of His grace to the world,
proclaiming the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous
light. [I Peter 2:9], and

WHEREAS, the Northern Illinois District has a history of selecting a thematic focus for
our service to Christ which has reflected our values and set general direction for our
work as synod in this place, and

WHEREAS, prayerful consideration has been given by leaders in our district to utilize
the theme of “Word, Wellness, Witness” at this time, including at the Vision
Workshops held throughout our district with participants from nearly half of our
congregations, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that The Northern Illinois District adopt the theme of “Word, Wellness,
Witness,” for its ongoing work together, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this theme be commended to the congregations, schools and
ministries of The Northern Illinois District for its use in shaping their own local
ministries, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we continue to lift up our prayers to our Savior, asking
Him to bless our service together under “Word, Wellness, Witness” with the fruit of
faith, according to His will.



**RESOLUTION 1-02: TO COMMEMORATE THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF LUTHER'S
NEW TESTAMENT TRANSLATION BY ENCOURAGING BIBLE READING**
Referencing Overtures 1-01 and 1-02

WHEREAS, the Bible is the only infallible rule of faith and practice, and

WHEREAS, God has promised through the prophet Isaiah that his word "shall not
return empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the
thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11), and

WHEREAS, the promises of God concerning his will are manifold and include
especially unity of pure doctrine, a zeal for missions, steadfastness, and wisdom, and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther encouraged pastors and teachers to read the Bible twice
each year for the strengthening of their faith and an increase in zeal and knowledge
(Luther's Works, AE:54.165), and

WHEREAS, September 2022 marks the 500th anniversary of Luther's translation of
the New Testament from the original Greek into the language of the people, and

WHEREAS, the translation of the Bible into the languages of the people from the
original languages is one of the greatest gifts God gave the Church through the
Reformation, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northern Illinois District commemorate this most blessed
anniversary with a renewed focus on Bible reading, and be it further

RESOLVED, that all Christians also be encouraged to read the Bible with pious
diligence, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the pastors, commissioned church workers, and lay leaders of the
district work together in their circuits to encourage one another in their Bible reading,
serving as pious examples of diligent study and godly love of Scripture.



RESOLUTION 1-03: TO CULTIVATE VISITATION TO BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST, ENCOURAGE THE FAITHFUL, AND BRING ABOUT HARMONY
Referencing Overture 1-04

WHEREAS, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod direct the district president to "supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the ordained or commissioned ministers who are members of his district or are subject to his ecclesiastical supervision" (Bylaw 4.4.5); and

WHEREAS, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod make provision for official congregational visits by the respective district president or his representative; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the Synod state that "He shall conduct his official visits in an evangelical manner" (Bylaw 4.4.4[c]) and "come to the pastor and the congregation as a brotherly advisor" (Bylaw 4.4.4[d]); and

WHEREAS, the 2013 convention passed Resolution 4-10, "To Encourage Proper Oversight in the Administration of Lord's Supper by Visitation from Ecclesiastical Supervisors"; and

WHEREAS, Pastors are called to be faithful in their stewardship of the mysteries of God (1 Cor. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 4:3--4) and need encouragement to carry out this important stewardship; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the District President (or his representative) visit each congregation during the triennium to build up the body of Christ, encourage the congregation in the faithful proclamation of the Word and administration of the Sacraments, and commend both existing and new outreach efforts to reach the surrounding the community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this visit include a discussion, among other things, of the congregation's administration of the Lord's Supper, including the Synod's position on "closed communion"; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that any practices not in accord with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions be addressed fraternally and evangelically with the goal of bringing about harmony and consistent practice.



RESOLUTION 1-04: TO STUDY TRIANGULAR FELLOWSHIP

Referencing Overture 1-07

WHEREAS, Altar and pulpit fellowship, as understood in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod "allows the pastors of one church to preach and celebrate Holy Communion in the church of another. Similarly, when altar and pulpit fellowship exists the laity of one church may receive Holy Communion from the other church's pastors. Churches in altar and pulpit fellowship share all spiritual things including a joint responsibility in maintaining a common confession of faith."; and

WHEREAS, confusion has arisen because the Synod has declared altar and pulpit fellowship with various partner church bodies that in turn share altar and pulpit fellowship with other church bodies with which the Synod is not in altar and pulpit fellowship ("triangular fellowship"); and

WHEREAS, although 2019 Convention Resolution 5-07 directed the Office of the President of Synod to report to the 2022 (now, 2023) Synod convention with recommendations on addressing the relationship between partner churches and the LWF as one example of being unequally yoked, that Resolution did not address the "triangular fellowship" problem; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this District memorialize the 2023 Synod convention to have the President of the Synod and his synodical representatives research the parameters of triangular fellowship and report its findings to the 2026 Synod convention.



RESOLUTION 1-05: TO AFFIRM THE CHURCH'S ESSENTIAL NATURE AND DUTY TO CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD

Referencing Overture 1-08

OVERVIEW: Throughout the months of the pandemic the Church has at times been declared “non-essential” by the government, which created a hindrance to gathering for public worship. This has, in some cases, allowed the government to dictate when and how the Church calls upon the name of the Lord. This must be addressed properly, lest an incorrect precedent be set for the future.

WHEREAS, God has designed His creation with three estates – the Family, the Church, and Government, and

WHEREAS, these Three Estates remain (and continue their defining functions) until the end of time, even during pandemic, famine, war, etc., and

WHEREAS, the government is given by God to reward good and punish evil, as defined by God’s holy will (Romans 13), and

WHEREAS, within the course of the Coronavirus pandemic, “good and evil” have not been carefully defined in agreement with God’s holy will, and state and local governments declared the Church’s identifying and central function of gathering at the altar of God to call upon the name of the Lord to be “non-essential,” and

WHEREAS, the divinely called pastors and undershepherds of Christ are as essential to the spiritual care of the individual as is a physician to the physical care of the individual, and

WHEREAS, congregations and pastors have been faithful in their duty to administer Word and Sacrament ministry throughout the course of the pandemic, employing various, temporary ways to serve God’s people with His gifts, and

WHEREAS, the Fourth Commandment does not necessarily authorize the government to close the doors of the Church or require the omission of in-person worship and singing, and certainly does not authorize the government to prohibit Word and Sacrament ministry, and

WHEREAS, the true exposition of the Fourth Commandment requires it to be interpreted in service of the First Commandment – that God alone is God and alone governs the kingdom of the Right, not by the authority of government, but by the Word and Sacraments; and the Fourth Commandment is to be interpreted in service of the entire First Table of the Law, including the Second and Third commandments to call upon the name of the Lord in the day of trouble and to not despise preaching and His Word, and



WHEREAS, the Fourth Commandment also maintains the Family as an equal estate, as our Confessions state, “In this commandment belongs a further statement about all kinds of obedience to persons in authority who have to command and to govern. For all authority flows and is born from the authority of parents. So all whom we call ‘masters’ are in the place of parents and must get their power and authority to govern from them” (LC I.141-142), and

WHEREAS, the Church confesses in AC XXVIII.11-12: “[C]ivil government deals with other things than the Gospel does. Civil rulers do not defend minds, but bodies and bodily things against obvious injuries. They restrain people with the sword and physical punishment in order to preserve civil justice and peace [Romans 13:1-7]. Therefore, the Church’s authority and the State’s authority must not be confused. The Church’s authority has its own commission to teach the Gospel and to administer the Sacraments [Matthew 28:19-20]”, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we affirm the Church’s essential nature, purpose, and ongoing function in this world until Christ comes again in His glory, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we affirm the Church’s and Family’s status, equal to the Government, as having their God-given role in caring for both body and soul, and be it further

RESOLVED, that, as the Church is essential, the pastor who serves her is also essential as he is charged by God to be ‘steward of the mysteries’ in administering Word and Sacrament, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we confess before God and man that no federal, state, or local government – even as a God-given estate to be honored by all and even in the name of ‘public safety’ – has authority in the kingdom of the Right and, thus, no rightful, God-given power over the Spirit’s gathering of the Father’s children in the Son’s divine service to God’s people, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we affirm that individual congregations may – in Christian freedom – choose to close their doors in times of public crisis at the direction of the government, but that all congregations regardless have the responsibility to continue to gather for Word and Sacrament ministry, choosing to obey God rather than man (Acts 5:29) with the support of the church body and her leaders, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we commend congregations for their faithfulness in conducting Word and Sacrament ministry throughout the pandemic, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we exhort congregations to continue to gather for in-person Word and Sacrament ministry, and be it further



RESOLVED, that we exhort and encourage one another to confess boldly the essential nature and function of the Church, especially in the event of and at the time of another government-mandated closure of congregations, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this assembly stand and sing together LSB 797, “Praise the Almighty,” verse 2:

Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal;
Earthborn they are and soon decay.
Vain are their counsels at life’s last portal,
When the dark grave engulfs its prey.
Since mortals can no help afford,
Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!



1 **RESOLUTION 2-01:** TO THANK GOD AND CONGREGATIONS, MINISTRIES, AND
2 INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF DISTRICT AND SYNOD
3 Referencing Overture 2-06
4

5 **WHEREAS,** The Apostle Paul frequently gives thanks to God for congregations and
6 individuals in their faithful service to our Lord in partnership in the Gospel [Romans
7 1:8; I Corinthians 1:4; Ephesians 1:15-16; Philippians 1:3-5; Colossians 1:3-5; II
8 Timothy 1:3; etc.] and,
9

10 **WHEREAS,** Our confessions encourage us always to receive the Lord's blessings
11 with thanksgiving [Luther's Small Catechism, Lord's Prayer, the Fourth Petition]
12 and,

13 **WHEREAS,** Congregations, ministries, and individuals within the Northern Illinois
14 District, even amid the uncertain days of the pandemic, faithfully responded to
15 Christ's grace in their unwavering support for our collective work in God's kingdom
16 through their offerings and financial gifts to the Northern Illinois District and the
17 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, therefore, be it
18

19 **RESOLVED,** That the 60th Convention of the Northern Illinois District of the
20 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod thank our faithful partners in Gospel for their
21 continued financial support of our work together, and be it finally
22

23 **RESOLVED,** That the assembled convention rise and give thanks to God for the
24 fruit of faith He has graciously worked in these partners in the Gospel by singing
25 the doxology.



1 **RESOLUTION 2-02: TO AFFIRM THE SANCTITY OF LIFE**

2 Referencing Overtures 2-04 and 3-04

3
4 **WHEREAS**, life is a gift from God sacrosanct from conception to natural death
5 (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:13; Psalm 139:13-16), and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, attacks on human life within our country have resulted in the loss of 62
8 million people through abortion on demand, and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, attacks on human life continue to accelerate through the promotion of
11 assisted suicide and euthanasia; therefore, be it

12
13 **RESOLVED**, that congregations continue to support ministries that support and
14 witness to the sanctity of human life such as Lutherans For Life, Redeeming Life
15 Outreach Ministry NID Expansion, pregnancy resource centers, and the NID-Life Task
16 Force, and be it further

17
18 **RESOLVED**, that pastors, teachers, DCEs, deaconesses, and other synodically trained
19 professional church workers actively seek ways to educate members of their churches
20 on the scriptural basis of the sanctity of human life and its life applications, and be it
21 further

22
23 **RESOLVED**, that congregational members be encouraged to serve in activities
24 promoting life within their communities, and be it finally

25
26 **RESOLVED**, that congregations be encouraged to designate one or more Sundays a
27 year to focus on the confession of God's gift of life, as it confronts contemporary beliefs
28 and practices against it, through corporate worship, educational opportunities, service
29 activities, and other events.



RESOLUTION 2-03: TO PERMIT ELECTRONIC BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Referencing Overture 2-05

WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 1.5.3 permits every agency of the Synod to “select a manner of meeting, consistent with [Synod’s] Board of Directors policy, that best enhances its ability to accomplish its mission, taking into consideration fostering the open exchange of ideas, availability of technology to all members, stewardship of resources, perception of fairness, controversial nature of agenda items, and whether secret ballots might be used”; and

WHEREAS, the district’s current bylaws do not note that the district’s board of directors, commissions, and committees have this authority, and this fact might lead people to the mistaken conclusion that these agencies do not have such an ability; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the following changes be made to Article I.E of the district’s bylaws (additions in **bold underline**; deletions in ~~striketrough~~):

I. ADMINISTRATION

E. Principles Governing the Organization and Activities of the Board of Directors.

1. The Board of Directors shall meet at least six times a year.

2. Special meetings of the board may be called by the chairperson or upon the request of four members unless otherwise specified in these bylaws.

3. **The Board of Directors has the authority to establish its policies to govern when, where, and how its meetings will be conducted. The board shall establish its policies for the triennium at its first meeting but may amend them in subsequent meetings. Meetings may be held in person, by electronic means (e.g., teleconference or videoconference), or in any other manner that allows for the open exchange of ideas, uses technology available to all directors, and meets the criteria set forth in the Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.**

~~34.~~ A majority of the total voting membership of the board shall constitute a quorum.

~~45.~~ The board may form standing committees. At least one member of the board shall serve on each committee. Subject to the provision of Section I B.1. of these Bylaws, a standing committee may be empowered to act in accordance with its assignment.

~~56.~~ The board shall be ready to advise and cooperate with all auxiliary and recognized service organizations of the Synod.



RESOLUTION 2-04: TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF REQUIRED MEETINGS OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Referencing Overture 2-02

RATIONALE: At present, the bylaws of the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod requires the Board of Directors to meet at least six times a year (Bylaw I.E.1), but all other committees and commissions are required to meet only four times a year (Bylaw I.F.4). This requirement made sense for many decades when the budget process was long and laborious. Until roughly twenty years ago, the district had several boards, each of which negotiated its budget with the Board of Directors; in addition, the district also directly subsidized over a dozen local missions. All of this required much time and effort to process, especially before today's sophisticated financial software became available. Typically, four of the six meetings of the Board of Directors were spent primarily on the budget process from September through January. The other two meetings (usually in March and June) handled general business. However, today there are no other boards besides the Board of Directors, and the district no longer directly subsidizes church plants. This change has made the budget process much more straightforward. Often now, the budget proposed in early fall is the same as what is adopted in January, with a handful of tweaks.

Congregations and other organizations have found that having fewer but more focused meetings is better. The business of the district could easily be handled in quarterly meetings. Furthermore, if some urgent item of business arises, special meetings can be easily called.

Having fewer meetings might also encourage a greater variety of people to serve on the board. It is easier for people to take off four days from work a year rather than six, especially if they know that emergency meetings could be handled electronically on an evening. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the following changes be made to Article I.E of the district's bylaws (additions in **bold underline**; deletions in ~~striketrough~~):

I. ADMINISTRATION

E. Principles Governing the Organization and Activities of the Board of Directors.

1. The Board of Directors shall meet at least ~~six~~ **four** times a year.



RESOLUTION 2-05: TO CHANGE PROCEDURES REGARDING INDUCTION OF OFFICE

Referencing Overture 2-03

WHEREAS, the Synod, in its 2019 convention, amended Bylaw 3.2.4.a to standardize when district-elected regents of universities in the Concordia University System would take office, and this new practice is at variance with the district's current bylaws; and

WHEREAS, the current provisions for when the service of induction is held require that all those elected be inducted into office on the same day, which is to be after those elected assume office, and this means that the service will typically take place at a hot time of the year; and

WHEREAS, total attendance is likely to be better if the services of induction are held when the weather is still comfortable and if multiple services are held rather than one centralized service; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws expect, but do not absolutely require, that the initial meeting of all boards and committees follow the service, a practice that has not been observed for several terms; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the following changes be made to Article V.F of the district's bylaws (additions in **bold underline**; deletions in ~~strikethrough~~):

V. ELECTION PROCEDURES

F. Induction into Office

1. **Members of the Board of Regents for Concordia University Chicago shall assume office upon the close of the district convention in conformity with Synod Bylaw, 3.2.4.a.** All those ~~others~~ elected into office at the Northern Illinois District Convention shall assume office as of the first day of the third month, subsequent to the convention.
2. Induction into office of those elected at the Northern Illinois District Convention shall be on a date ~~on or subsequent to the first day of the third month subsequent to the district convention.~~ **or dates chosen by the newly elected President. It may be before or after the assumption of duties.**
3. ~~The initial meeting of the boards and commissions shall ordinarily be held in association with the induction and shall begin with a combined orientation program conducted under the direction of the President.~~



RESOLUTION 2-06: TO AMEND THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT BYLAWS FOR CLARITY

Referencing Late Overture

WHEREAS, the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters has proposed a few amendments to the district bylaws for clarity's sake, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the following changes be made to the district's bylaws (additions in **bold underline**; deletions in ~~strikethrough~~):

To Bylaw I.D.2:

The Board of Directors may ~~elect~~ **appoint** such assistant secretaries and assistant treasurers as it shall deem necessary for the efficient operation of the district.

To Bylaw I.E.5:

The board may form standing committees. At least one member of the board shall serve on each committee. Subject to the provisions **of Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.4 and** Section I B.1 of these Bylaws, a standing committee may be empowered to act in accordance with its assignment.

To Bylaw II.B.1.a:

He shall be the chief executive ~~officer~~ of the district **(Synod Bylaw 4.4.1)**. As such he is responsible for managing the affairs of the district, and for administering the district office, including his executive staff and all other staff members.

To Bylaw II.B.4.d:

The Treasurer shall be ~~elected~~ **a layperson appointed** by the Board of Directors following each district convention and may serve on a full-time or part-time, salaried or volunteer basis, as determined by the Board of Directors.

To Bylaw V.A.1.d:

One ordained minister, one commissioned minister, and two laypersons to the Board of Regents, Concordia University Chicago. **All nominees for the Board of Regents must be screened for qualification as prescribed by Synod Bylaw 3.10.6.2.**

To Bylaw V.B.4.a:

Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate from the ordained minister roster of the Synod one ordained minister as candidate for President and one ordained minister as candidate for vice-president. **Each nominee for**



43 **vice-president must hold membership in a congregation in the region for**
44 **which he is nominated (Synod Bylaw 4.3.1).** A congregation may nominate
45 only an ordained minister from its own region for the office of vice-president.



1 **RESOLUTION 2-07:** TO ADD A FOURTH THREE-YEAR TERM TO THE DISTRICT
2 PRESIDENT OF THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT LCMS
3 Referencing Overture 2-08
4

5 **WHEREAS**, in the recent past, the District President of the Northern Illinois District
6 was allowed to stand for election for four consecutive three-year terms, and

7 **WHEREAS**, this proved to be a God-pleasing and successful way for consistent
8 direction, oversight, and guidance from the president's office, and

9 **WHEREAS**, we, the church, are now coming clear from a most unprecedented time of
10 social uncertainty, fear, and national government inconsistency due to the pandemic,
11 and

12 **WHEREAS**, the vast majority of districts in the LC-MS see the value and have set
13 precedent of the District President having at least four three-year terms; therefore, be
14 it

15 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District would again allow a man to run for four
16 consecutive three-year terms to be President of the Northern Illinois District, and be it
17 further

18 **RESOLVED**, that this resolution would go into effect under the present President's
19 administration.



RESOLUTION 3-01: CONGREGATIONS CAN HAVE A GREATER IMPACT FOR THE GOSPEL BY WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER

Referencing Overture 2-01 and 3-06

WHEREAS, the Northern Illinois District consists of 200+ congregations in northern Illinois with over 97,000 members, and not just the office in Hillside, and

WHEREAS, the responsibility of carrying out the mission of the church belongs to each congregation in which pastors are called to prepare God's people for the work of the church as it says in Ephesians 4:11-13 - "It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up ...", and

WHEREAS, each and every congregation is filled with disciples - not mere "members" - whom the Holy Spirit has equipped with gifts to carry out the work of the church as it says in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12 and Ephesians 4, and

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod follows in the tradition of Martin Luther who restored to the Church and championed the priesthood of all believers as expressed in Scripture - "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9); and as Luther explained - "For in Baptism none of us is born an apostle, preacher, teacher, pastor; but there all of us are born solely priests" (What Luther Says, 1140:3646), and

WHEREAS, in the geographic area of the Northern Illinois District there exists an enormous mission field that includes prisoners, the sick, the elderly, the developmentally disabled, college students, homeless, orphans, the hungry, immigrants, the unborn, the unemployed and underemployed, unbelievers..., and

WHEREAS, Jesus said in Matthew 25 - "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me" (vs. 35-36) And

WHEREAS, the mission of the Northern Illinois District is to be - "Filled with living hope in Christ, Confessing, Praising, and Advancing His Kingdom" - which has a 3-part vision:



1. WORD: Helping congregations be more centered on a rich life of Word and Sacrament, with congregational support in transitions as well as time of joys and sorrows,
2. WELLNESS: Promoting and encouraging health and vitality in congregations, schools, ministries, professional workers and Lay-leaders,
3. WITNESS: Encouraging personal witnessing, congregational engagement with their community, support of our NID partnerships and missions and sharing a world mission field together,

Therefore be it...

RESOLVED, that pastors, circuit visitors, and congregations work together with community leaders to identify local and regional mission fields, including jails, prisons, and detention centers, using their composite talents and resources to help those having physical needs and spread the light of the Gospel to a world in need of salvation and be it further

RESOLVED, that the work of identifying and owning the mission would be incorporated into the regular and on-going agenda at each level of district - utilizing the current structures of circuits, regions, and district, to share and communicate active ministries and be it further

RESOLVED, that every pastor would be encouraged to continue nurturing and equipping God's people for works of service through Word and Sacrament ministry, as well as, training toward specific ministries, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the staff of the Northern Illinois District provide encouragement, support, and tools as we all work together to accomplish the Lord's mission.



RESOLUTION 3-02: ADOPTION OF BELIZE AS THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT'S INTERNATIONAL MISSION FOCUS
Referencing Overture 3-02

WHEREAS, Christ Jesus has blessed His Church to be His witnesses “to the ends of the earth” [Acts 1:8], and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is in partnership with other Lutheran Churches and missions throughout the world, serving in the joyful work our Savior has given us, and

WHEREAS, the Rocky Mountain, Missouri, and Texas Districts have participated in mission work in Belize and been financial supporters of this ministry, and

WHEREAS, having an international mission focus provides the chance to combine efforts in bringing the Gospel to the ends of the earth through their prayers, financial support, and direct participation through short-term mission trips, and

WHEREAS, the Belize Mission Society, located here in the Northern Illinois District, is a Recognized Service Organization which has assisted in establishing a Lutheran confession and church in Belize, and

WHEREAS, the Office of International Mission called synod's first full-time missionary to the Belize Mission for the LCMS in 2016, and

WHEREAS, a mission partnership in Belize has advantages for short-term mission trips for congregations as the country's official language is English and being located in the northern hemisphere, allows for easier and cheaper travel than a more distant partnership, thus allowing for more efficient use of mission dollars, and

WHEREAS, the Northern Illinois District's Board of Directors has endorsed Belize as our mission partner for a three year commitment at their January 2020 meeting, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the leadership of the Northern Illinois District work with congregations to send short-term mission teams to Belize to further the work of the Gospel there, to further educate congregations on our Lord's work in the mission field through post-trip presentations, and to help foster a mission-mindedness within our own local communities, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the congregations, schools and ministries of the Northern Illinois District be commended to regularly remember Mission Belize in their prayers and graciously to support this work of our Lord through our offerings.



RESOLUTION 3-03: TO STUDY THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT'S MINISTRY WITH MULTIETHNIC COMMUNITIES AND GROW IN OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT ACTIONS OF RACIAL RECONCILIATION CLEARLY AFFIRM BIBLICAL TRUTH.

Referencing Overtures 3-05 and 3-07

WHEREAS, the Synod in convention (2019 Resolution 11-04A, "To Affirm the Common Humanity of All People and Ethnicities") resolved "that the members of the congregations of the Synod be encouraged to work toward racial reconciliation and equality within the Church and within society-at large"; and

WHEREAS, racism was defined in the 2019 Resolution as "a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Resolution said, "Racism has no basis in Scripture or the Lutheran Confessions, but rather is consistent with atheistic evolutionary ideologies and movements that claim the supremacy of one people group over another"; and

WHEREAS, racism "manifests itself in actions that adversely affect the lives of others...especially when those who are in a position to enforce their prejudices use their influence to harm others regarded as inferior, and even to exploit them" ("Racism and the Church", CTCR 1994, p. 11); and

WHEREAS, it is imperative for the Church to discuss openly and honestly sensitive matters such as race relations, and

WHEREAS, the Church is called to confess clearly and boldly Biblical Truth and to repudiate unscriptural falsehoods, even when such confession is unpopular before the world, and

WHEREAS, Paul exhorts Christians to "take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them" (Ephesians 5:11), and

WHEREAS, the CTCR states, "racism must be regarded among the 'works of darkness' that produce nothing of any value to anyone. The church, aware of its history in the United States, must continually employ methods grounded in the Word and sacraments and in the proper distinction between Law and Gospel—to expose, condemn, and remove [racism]" ("Racism and the Church", CTCR 1994, p. 39); and

WHEREAS, the people of God are striving to live faithfully, but still participate in sinful thoughts, words, and deeds in what they do and leave undone (1 John 1:8-10), which can and has included the sin of racism; and

WHEREAS, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandments are to love God and love your neighbor (Mark 12:30-31); and Jesus illustrates for his disciples that they are to treat all persons as neighbor (Luke 10:29-37); and Paul exhorts us to show the love of Christ as we "bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2); and He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love



kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?’ (Micah 6:8) and Martin Luther, in his explanations of the fifth and seventh commandments, extolls us to show that love as we care for our neighbors as we support them in their needs, well-being, income, and property; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we as the Northern Illinois District affirm the importance of discussion and study of sensitive issues, including race relations, and be it further

RESOLVED, that, the District President will commission an ethnically diverse task force, including professional church workers, laypeople with background in such work, and young adults, to study the Northern Illinois District’s history of mission, ministry, and education within multiethnic communities, to be completed within twelve months, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the results of this task force’s study would also provide us with tangible ways to move forward in our present and future outreach efforts in multiethnic communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the study will be distributed to all congregations in the Northern Illinois District and made available on the district website; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage the congregations of the Northern Illinois District to address the results of this study which exemplifies the ministry of reconciliation which Christ has given to us (2 Corinthians 5:11-21); and be it further

RESOLVED, that we as the Northern Illinois District confess and affirm the following Biblical Truths:

- That all people are created by God and are children of Adam and Noah, so that there is truly one human race and, thus, all lives matter to God and to Christians
- That the Christ was sent to die for the sins of the whole world, as St John says, “and not our sins only, but for the sins of the whole world,” for “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” And be it finally

RESOLVED, that all members of NID congregations be encouraged to implement the LCMS 2019 resolution (11-04A).



1 **OMNIBUS A:**

2 Overture 2-01: TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE'S OFFERINGS GIVEN TO CONCORDIA
3 UNIVERTISTY SCHOOLS (Refer to LCMS Board of Directors and Concordia University
4 System)

5
6 Overture 3:03: NID W10 Pastors Concerning the Closure of Concordia College, New
7 York (Refer to LCMS Board of Directors)

8
9 **OMNIBUS B:**

10 Overture 1-03: TO GIVE A CLEAR CONFESSION OF THE RESURRECTION IN OUR
11 FUNERAL PRACTICES (Previous Action: 2019 LCMS Convention, Resolution 5-10)

12
13 Overture 1-05: TO REJOICE IN THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD BY HIS
14 CALLED AND ORDAINED SERVANTS (Previous Action: 1989 LCMS Convention,
15 Resolution 3-14)

