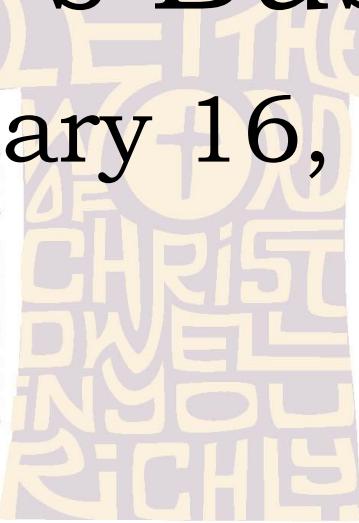


Resolutions

Today's Business

January 16, 2022

Colossians 3:1



IN CHRIST

Northern Illinois District 2022 Convention Resolutions

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

4
5 **WHEREAS**, our Lord has given us His inspired Word to make us wise for
6 salvation through faith in Christ Jesus and to equip us for every good work [II
7 Timothy 3:14-17], and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, our Lord has blessed us in wellness, giving us our very lives and richly
10 and daily providing us with all we need to support this body and life. [Luther’s Small
11 Catechism, The Creed, The First Article Explanation], and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, our Lord has called us to witness the gift of His grace to the world,
14 proclaiming the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous
15 light. [I Peter 2:9], and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, the Northern Illinois District has a history of selecting a thematic focus for
18 our service to Christ which has reflected our values and set general direction for our
19 work as synod in this place, and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, prayerful consideration has been given by leaders in our district to utilize
22 the theme of “Word, Wellness, Witness” at this time, including at the Vision
23 Workshops held throughout our district with participants from nearly half of our
24 congregations, therefore be it

25
26 **RESOLVED**, that The Northern Illinois District adopt the theme of “Word, Wellness,
27 Witness,” for its ongoing work together, and be it further

28
29 **RESOLVED**, that this theme be commended to the congregations, schools and
30 ministries of The Northern Illinois District for its use in shaping their own local
31 ministries, and be it finally

32
33 **RESOLVED**, that we continue to lift up our prayers to our Savior, asking
34 Him to bless our service together under “Word, Wellness, Witness” with the fruit of
35 faith, according to His will.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

4
5 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod direct the district president to
6 "supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration on the part of the
7 ordained or commissioned ministers who are members of his district or are subject to
8 his ecclesiastical supervision" (Bylaw 4.4.5); and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod make provision for official
11 congregational visits by the respective district president or his representative; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, the Bylaws of the Synod state that "He shall conduct his official visits in
14 an evangelical manner" (Bylaw 4.4.4[c]) and "come to the pastor and the congregation
15 as a brotherly advisor" (Bylaw 4.4.4[d]); and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, the 2013 convention passed Resolution 4-10, "To Encourage Proper
18 Oversight in the Administration of Lord's Supper by Visitation from Ecclesiastical
19 Supervisors"; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, Pastors are called to be faithful in their stewardship of the mysteries of
22 God (1 Cor. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 4:3--4) and need encouragement to carry out this important
23 stewardship; therefore, be it

24
25 **RESOLVED**, that the District President (or his representative) visit each congregation
26 during the triennium to build up the body of Christ, encourage the congregation in the
27 faithful proclamation of the Word and administration of the Sacraments, and
28 commend both existing and new outreach efforts to reach the surrounding the
29 community; and be it further

30
31 **RESOLVED**, that this visit include a discussion, among other things, of the
32 congregation's administration of the Lord's Supper, including the Synod's position on
33 "closed communion"; and be it finally

34
35 **RESOLVED**, that any practices not in accord with the Scriptures and the Lutheran
36 Confessions be addressed fraternally and evangelically with the goal of bringing about
37 harmony and consistent practice.



1 **RESOLUTION 1-04: TO STUDY TRIANGULAR FELLOWSHIP**

2 Referencing Overture 1-07

3

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

10

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

15

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

21

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



1 **RESOLUTION 1-05: TO AFFIRM THE CHURCH'S ESSENTIAL NATURE AND DUTY TO**
 2 **CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD**
 3 Referencing Overture 1-08

4
 5 **OVERVIEW:** Throughout the months of the pandemic the Church has at times been
 6 declared "non-essential" by the government, which created a hindrance to gathering
 7 for public worship. This has, in some cases, allowed the government to dictate when
 8 and how the Church calls upon the name of the Lord. This must be addressed
 9 properly, lest an incorrect precedent be set for the future.

10
 11 **WHEREAS**, God has designed His creation with three estates – the Family, the
 12 Church, and Government, and

13
 14 **WHEREAS**, these Three Estates remain (and continue their defining functions) until
 15 the end of time, even during pandemic, famine, war, etc., and

16
 17 **WHEREAS**, the government is given by God to reward good and punish evil, as defined
 18 by God's holy will (Romans 13), and

19
 20 **WHEREAS**, within the course of the Coronavirus pandemic, "good and evil" have not
 21 been carefully defined in agreement with God's holy will, and state and local
 22 governments declared the Church's identifying and central function of gathering at the
 23 altar of God to call upon the name of the Lord to be "non-essential," and

24
 25 **WHEREAS**, the divinely called pastors and undershepherds of Christ are as essential
 26 to the spiritual care of the individual as is a physician to the physical care of the
 27 individual, and

28
 29 **WHEREAS**, congregations and pastors have been faithful in their duty to administer
 30 Word and Sacrament ministry throughout the course of the pandemic, employing
 31 various, temporary ways to serve God's people with His gifts, and

32
 33 **WHEREAS**, the Fourth Commandment does not necessarily authorize the government
 34 to close the doors of the Church or require the omission of in-person worship and
 35 singing, and certainly does not authorize the government to prohibit Word and
 36 Sacrament ministry, and

37
 38 **WHEREAS**, the true exposition of the Fourth Commandment requires it to be
 39 interpreted in service of the First Commandment – that God alone is God and alone
 40 governs the kingdom of the Right, not by the authority of government, but by the Word
 41 and Sacraments; and the Fourth Commandment is to be interpreted in service of the
 42 entire First Table of the Law, including the Second and Third commandments to call
 43 upon the name of the Lord in the day of trouble and to not despise preaching and His
 44 Word, and



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

51
 52 **WHEREAS**, the Church confesses in AC XXVIII.11-12: “[C]ivil government deals with
 53 other things than the Gospel does. Civil rulers do not defend minds, but bodies and
 54 bodily things against obvious injuries. They restrain people with the sword and
 55 physical punishment in order to preserve civil justice and peace [Romans 13:1-7].
 56 Therefore, the Church’s authority and the State’s authority must not be confused. The
 57 Church’s authority has its own commission to teach the Gospel and to administer the
 58 Sacraments [Matthew 28:19-20]”, therefore, be it

59
 60 **RESOLVED**, that we affirm the Church’s essential nature, purpose, and ongoing
 61 function in this world until Christ comes again in His glory, and be it further

62
 63 **RESOLVED**, that we affirm the Church’s and Family’s status, equal to the
 64 Government, as having their God-given role in caring for both body and soul, and be it
 65 further

66
 67 **RESOLVED**, that, as the Church is essential, the pastor who serves her is also
 68 essential as he is charged by God to be ‘steward of the mysteries’ in administering
 69 Word and Sacrament, and be it further

70
 71 **RESOLVED**, that we confess before God and man that no federal, state, or local
 72 government – even as a God-given estate to be honored by all and even in the name of
 73 ‘public safety’ – has authority in the kingdom of the Right and, thus, no rightful, God-
 74 given power over the Spirit’s gathering of the Father’s children in the Son’s divine
 75 service to God’s people, and be it further

76
 77 **RESOLVED**, that we affirm that individual congregations may – in Christian freedom –
 78 choose to close their doors in times of public crisis at the direction of the government,
 79 but that all congregations regardless have the responsibility to continue to gather for
 80 Word and Sacrament ministry, choosing to obey God rather than man (Acts 5:29) with
 81 the support of the church body and her leaders, and be it further

82
 83 **RESOLVED**, that we commend congregations for their faithfulness in conducting Word
 84 and Sacrament ministry throughout the pandemic, and be it further

85
 86 **RESOLVED**, that we exhort congregations to continue to gather for in-person Word
 87 and Sacrament ministry, and be it further



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

91
92 **RESOLVED**, that this assembly stand and sing together LSB 797, “Praise the
93 Almighty,” verse 2:

94
95 Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal;
96 Earthborn they are and soon decay.
97 Vain are their counsels at life’s last portal,
98 When the dark grave engulfs its prey.
99 Since mortals can no help afford,
100 Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
101 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.



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

3
 4 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 1.5.3 permits every agency of the Synod to “select a manner
 5 of meeting, consistent with [Synod’s] Board of Directors policy, that best enhances its
 6 ability to accomplish its mission, taking into consideration fostering the open
 7 exchange of ideas, availability of technology to all members, stewardship of resources,
 8 perception of fairness, controversial nature of agenda items, and whether secret
 9 ballots might be used”; and

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

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

16 **I. ADMINISTRATION**

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

19 1. The Board of Directors shall meet at least six times a year.
 20 2. Special meetings of the board may be called by the chairperson or
 21 upon the request of four members unless otherwise specified in
 22 these bylaws.

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

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

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

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



40 **67.** The board shall actively seek opportunities to provide and receive
41 information, resources, and reports from conferences of
42 professional church workers regarding ministry needs and
43 opportunities in the district. And be it finally

44 **RESOLVED**, that the following changes be made to Article I.F.4 of the district's bylaws
45 (additions in **bold underline**; deletions in ~~strikethrough~~):

46 F. Principles Governing the Organization and Activities of Appointed
47 Commissions and Committees

48 4. Each commission or committee shall meet at least four times a
49 year. **Each commission or committee has the authority to**
50 **establish its policies to govern when, where, and how it will**
51 **meet. Each commission or committee shall establish its**
52 **policies for the triennium at its first meeting but may amend**
53 **them in subsequent meetings. Meetings may be held in**
54 **person, by electronic means (e.g., teleconference or**
55 **videoconference), or in any other manner that allows for the**
56 **open exchange of ideas, uses technology available to all**
57 **directors, and meets the criteria set forth in the Synod Bylaw**
58 **1.5.3.**



1 **RESOLUTION 2-04:** TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF REQUIRED MEETINGS OF THE
 2 DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 3 Referencing Overture 2-02

4
 5 **RATIONALE:** At present, the bylaws of the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran
 6 Church-Missouri Synod requires the Board of Directors to meet at least six times a
 7 year (Bylaw I.E.1), but all other committees and commissions are required to meet
 8 only four times a year (Bylaw I.F.4). This requirement made sense for many decades
 9 when the budget process was long and laborious. Until roughly twenty years ago, the
 10 district had several boards, each of which negotiated its budget with the Board of
 11 Directors; in addition, the district also directly subsidized over a dozen local missions.
 12 All of this required much time and effort to process, especially before today's
 13 sophisticated financial software became available. Typically, four of the six meetings of
 14 the Board of Directors were spent primarily on the budget process from September
 15 through January. The other two meetings (usually in March and June) handled
 16 general business. However, today there are no other boards besides the Board of
 17 Directors, and the district no longer directly subsidizes church plants. This change
 18 has made the budget process much more straightforward. Often now, the budget
 19 proposed in early fall is the same as what is adopted in January, with a handful of
 20 tweaks.
 21

22 Congregations and other organizations have found that having fewer but more focused
 23 meetings is better. The business of the district could easily be handled in quarterly
 24 meetings. Furthermore, if some urgent item of business arises, special meetings can
 25 be easily called.
 26

27 Having fewer meetings might also encourage a greater variety of people to serve on the
 28 board. It is easier for people to take off four days from work a year rather than six,
 29 especially if they know that emergency meetings could be handled electronically on an
 30 evening. Therefore, be it
 31

32 **RESOLVED**, that the following changes be made to Article I.E of the district's bylaws
 33 (additions in **bold underline**; deletions in ~~strikethrough~~):
 34

35 **I. ADMINISTRATION**

36 E. Principles Governing the Organization and Activities of the Board of
 37 Directors.
 38 1. The Board of Directors shall meet at least ~~six~~ **four** times a year.



1 **RESOLUTION 2-05: TO CHANGE PROCEDURES REGARDING INDUCTION OF**
 2 **OFFICE**
 3 Referencing Overture 2-03

4
 5 **WHEREAS**, the Synod, in its 2019 convention, amended Bylaw 3.2.4.a to standardize
 6 when district-elected regents of universities in the Concordia University System would
 7 take office, and this new practice is at variance with the district's current bylaws; and

8
 9 **WHEREAS**, the current provisions for when the service of induction is held require
 10 that all those elected be inducted into office on the same day, which is to be after
 11 those elected assume office, and this means that the service will typically take place at
 12 a hot time of the year; and

13
 14 **WHEREAS**, total attendance is likely to be better if the services of induction are held
 15 when the weather is still comfortable and if multiple services are held rather than one
 16 centralized service; and

17
 18 **WHEREAS**, the bylaws expect, but do not absolutely require, that the initial meeting
 19 of all boards and committees follow the service, a practice that has not been observed
 20 for several terms; therefore, be it

21
 22 **RESOLVED**, that the following changes be made to Article V.F of the district's bylaws
 23 (additions in **bold underline**; deletions in **strikethrough**):

24
 25 **V. ELECTION PROCEDURES**

26 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.



1 **RESOLUTION 2-06:** TO AMEND THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT BYLAWS FOR
 2 CLARITY
 3 Referencing Late Overture
 4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters has proposed a few
 6 amendments to the district bylaws for clarity's sake, therefore, be it
 7

8 **RESOLVED**, that the following changes be made to the district's bylaws (additions in
 9 **bold underline**; deletions in ~~strikethrough~~):
 10

11 To Bylaw I.D.2:

12 The Board of Directors may ~~elect~~ **appoint** such assistant secretaries and
 13 assistant treasurers as it shall deem necessary for the efficient operation of the
 14 district.
 15

16 To Bylaw I.E.5:

17 The board may form standing committees. At least one member of the board
 18 shall serve on each committee. Subject to the provisions **of Synod Bylaw**
 19 **1.5.3.4 and** Section I B.1 of these Bylaws, a standing committee may be
 20 empowered to act in accordance with its assignment.
 21

22 To Bylaw II.B.1.a:

23 He shall be the chief executive ~~officer~~ of the district (**Synod Bylaw 4.4.1**). As
 24 such he is responsible for managing the affairs of the district, and for
 25 administering the district office, including his executive staff and all other staff
 26 members.
 27

28 To Bylaw II.B.4.d:

29 The Treasurer shall be ~~elected~~ **a layperson appointed** by the Board of Directors
 30 following each district convention and may serve on a full-time or part-time,
 31 salaried or volunteer basis, as determined by the Board of Directors.
 32

33 To Bylaw V.A.1.d:

34 One ordained minister, one commissioned minister, and two laypersons to the
 35 Board of Regents, Concordia University Chicago. **All nominees for the Board**
 36 **of Regents must be screened for qualification as prescribed by Synod**
 37 **Bylaw 3.10.6.2.**
 38

39 To Bylaw V.B.4.a:

40 Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate from the ordained
 41 minister roster of the Synod one ordained minister as candidate for President
 42 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.



1 **RESOLUTION 3-01: CONGREGATIONS CAN HAVE A GREATER IMPACT FOR THE**
 2 **GOSPEL BY WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER**
 3 Referencing Overture 2-01 and 3-06

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



41 1. WORD: Helping congregations be more centered on a rich life of Word
42 and Sacrament, with congregational support in transitions as well as
43 time of joys and sorrows,
44

45 2. WELLNESS: Promoting and encouraging health and vitality in
46 congregations, schools, ministries, professional workers and Lay-leaders,
47

48 3. WITNESS: Encouraging personal witnessing, congregational engagement
49 with their community, support of our NID partnerships and missions
50 and sharing a world mission field together,
51

52 Therefore be it...

53

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

59

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

64

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

68

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



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

4

5 **WHEREAS**, Christ Jesus has blessed His Church to be His witnesses "to the ends of
6 the earth" [Acts 1:8], and

7

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

11

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

14

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

18

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

22

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

25

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

30

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

34

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

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



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

4 Referencing Overtures 3-05 and 3-07

5

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

68
 69 **RESOLVED**, that all members of NID congregations be encouraged to implement the
 70 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 CONFESSTION 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)

