

REGARDING THE LETTERING AND NUMBERING OF OVERTURES

The reason for the three pairs of numbers, i.e. OV 04-18-01: the first pair of numbers refers to the floor committee number (Bylaws in this example), the second to the year, and the third to the number of the overture.

What you see printed in this workbook are the original overtures that were submitted for consideration. These will have undergone review by the respective floor committee prior to the beginning of the convention.

Mission Development – 01

- OV 01-18-01 TO DEVELOP WORKER TRAINING PLAN
- OV 01-18-02 TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY FOR FUTURE MINISTRY
- OV 01-18-03 TO CONTINUE THE LICENSING OF CERTIFIED LAY DEACONS FOR WORD AND SACRAMENT MINISTRY IN EMERGENCIES
- OV 01-18-04 TO SUPPORT GAINESVILLE, VIRGINIA MISSION
- OV 01-18-05 TO ENCOURAGE PARTNERSHIP WITH MISSION OF CHRIST NETWORK TO INTENTIONALLY PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL
- OV 01-18-06 TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT OF RSOS (RECOGNIZED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS) WITHIN SYNOD AND DISTRICT
- OV 01-18-07 TO SUPPORT RSO'S WITHIN SYNOD AND DISTRICT
- OV 01-18-08 TO SUPPORT LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD (LC-MS) REGISTERED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (RSOS) IN THE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT (SED)
- OV 01-18-09 TO RECONSIDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM FOR PREPARING PASTORS

Congregational Outreach – 02

- OV 02-18-01 TO CREATE A PROGRAM THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT THAT SUPPORT ALL FAMILIES AND GIVE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
- OV 02-18-02 TO CREATE A PROGRAM TO SUPPORT AND TRAIN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DIRECTORS TO LEAD EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT
- OV 02-18-03 TO RESEARCH APPROPRIATE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CURRICULA FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT
- OV 02-18-04 TO ESTABLISH A POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF WORKER AND CONGREGATIONAL CARE
- OV 02-18-05 TO SUPPORT LCMSU



- OV 02-18-06 TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT OF LCMS UNIVERSITY CHAPTERS
- OV 02-18-07 TO GIVE THANKS FOR OUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND STAFF IN THEIR ADVISORY ROLES TO CALLING CONGREGATIONS
- OV 02-18-08 TO GIVE THANKS FOR OUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND STAFF IN THEIR ADVISORY ROLES TO CALLING CONGREGATIONS
- OV 02-18-09 TO ASK FOR GUIDANCE REGARDING NON-LEGAL MARRIAGES RECOGNIZED BY THE CHURCH

Stewardship & Finance – 03

- OV 03-18-01 TO RECOGNIZE THE WORK OF MID-ATLANTIC LUTHERANS IN MISSION AS A FUNDING SOURCE FOR SED MISSION EFFORTS
- OV 03-18-02 TO REDUCE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION COSTS
- OV 03-18-03 TO ENSURE PROPER FINANCIAL REPORTING TO THE SYNOD
- OV 03-18-04 TO ENSURE PROPER FINANCIAL REPORTING TO THE SYNOD

Bylaws – 04

- OV 04-18-01 TO NOT DISENFRANCHISE MEMBERS OF SYNOD FROM ATTENDING THE DISTRICT CONVENTION

Theology & Practice – 05

- OV 05-18-01 TO RESCIND CCM 16-2791
- OV 05-18-02 TO REMOVE SYNOD BYLAW 2.14.5
- OV 05-18-03 TO REMOVE BYLAW 2.14.5 ON ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION
- OV 05-18-04 TO ADDRESS ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION
- OV 05-18-05 TO REQUEST AN APPEAL OF NEW SYNODICAL BYLAW REGARDING ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION OF CHURCH WORKERS
- OV 05-18-06 TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS (ACTING AS THE BOARD OF ASSIGNMENTS) TO CREATE SYSTEM FOR THE PLACEMENT OF INACTIVE—CANDIDATE MEMBERS
- OV 05-18-07 TO CORRECT DEFECTS OF SECTIONS 2.14-2.17, ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SYNOD

Nominations & Elections – 06

- NE 06-18-01 TO RATIFY SLATE OF CIRCUIT VISITORS



1 **OVERTURE 01-18-01: TO DEVELOP WORKER TRAINING PLAN**

2
3 **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:** Recent analysis of pastors within The Lutheran Church
4 – Missouri Synod reveals that, over the next ten years, roughly two-thirds of today’s
5 pastors will have reached or past the age of retirement. Additionally, seminary
6 graduation rates over the past decade have been well below retirement rates. This
7 analysis makes it clear that our church body has a worker supply-demand problem.
8 Unless these trends are reversed, before the year 2027 our church body will not have
9 enough pastors to serve our church body.

10
11 **WHEREAS,** the Southeastern District’s iNeighborhood ministry targets include:

- 12
- 13 • 500 new neighborhoods (ZIP codes) being reached and engaged
- 14 • 100 church workers serving in their neighborhood; and
- 15

16 **WHEREAS,** one of the critical resources required to meet these targets is a
17 theologically-trained workforce; and

18
19 **WHEREAS,** Concordia Seminary – St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary – Ft.
20 Wayne are not currently supplying sufficient quantity of theologically-trained workers to
21 resource the mission initiatives of the Southeastern District; and

22
23 **WHEREAS,** the Southeastern District’s priority is to expand our mission activity, not to
24 contract it; and

25
26 **WHEREAS,** these mission initiatives will be on-going, requiring workers to be recruited,
27 trained, and released into ministry over coming decades; and

28
29 **WHEREAS,** the Southeastern District has utilized programs to provide formal
30 theological training for potential workers, including the Certified Lay Deacon program at
31 Concordia – New York; and

32
33 **WHEREAS,** Article XIV of the Augsburg Confession states that “no one should publicly
34 teach in the Church or administer the Sacraments unless he be regularly called;”
35 therefore be it

36
37 **RESOLVED,** That the Southeastern District Board of Directors and President develop a
38 worker training plan to supply pastors, leaders, and other church workers to serve the
39 mission and congregations of the District, working with our partner institutions when
40 appropriate; and be it further

41
42 **RESOLVED,** That the President of the Southeastern District present this plan to the
43 2021 district convention.

44 Submitted by:
45 Redeemer Lutheran Church, Richmond, VA on December 10, 2017
46



47 Circuit Forum of Circuit 10 on November 19, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 01-18-02: TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY FOR FUTURE MINISTRY**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, there is a looming shortage of pastors and church workers anticipated in
4 the near future; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, gathered in Convention in 2016,
7 limited Word and Sacrament ministry to ordained pastors, eliminating the use of any
8 other designated servants; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, there are not enough eligible students preparing for church work to meet
11 the current, much less future needs of the church; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, many congregations are currently without pastors or other needed church
14 workers; therefore be it

15
16 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
17 sponsor area studies and conversations regarding the future needs of its member
18 congregations and other ministries; and be it further

19
20 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District petition the 2019 Convention of The
21 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to do the same, with examination of strategies for
22 training and deploying church workers throughout the Synod; and be it finally

23
24 **RESOLVED**, That The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod form strategic partnerships to
25 meet the future needs of its congregations and ministries with the church workers that
26 will be needed.

27
28 Submitted by:

29 Bethel Lutheran Church, Claremont, NC on Dec. 3, 2017

30 Circuit Forum of Circuit 16 on November 12, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 01-18-03: TO CONTINUE THE LICENSING OF CERTIFIED LAY**
2 **DEACONS FOR WORD AND SACRAMENT MINISTRY IN EMERGENCIES**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the Scriptures enjoin leaders of the church to equip the laity for the work of
5 ministry (e. g., Eph 4:11–12); and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in convention, has recognized the
8 contribution of consecrated lay workers by recommending that those who have been
9 certified to serve be allowed temporary licensure for, among other things, “preaching
10 and administration of the sacraments...in extreme circumstances and emergencies”
11 while under the supervision of an ordained LCMS pastor;¹ and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the number of candidates for ordination, ordained pastors available on the
14 clergy roster of the LCMS, and retired clergy has been steadily *decreasing* while the
15 number of small congregations that are unable to readily support a pastor financially in
16 the LCMS has been rapidly *increasing*; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the Lord of the Church is calling laypeople today to even greater
19 involvement in areas of ministry traditionally left to pastors and full-time church workers;
20 and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the Southeastern District of the LCMS has responded to the call in Holy
23 Scripture to equip the laity for ministry by developing a program for certified lay deacons
24 with Concordia University—New York and endeavored to be faithful to the Lord of the
25 Church by licensing certified deacons for preaching and administration of the
26 sacraments in emergencies; therefore be it
27

28 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District, in convention, reaffirm its commitment to
29 supporting residential seminary programs and non-residential pastoral training
30 programs like SMP; and be it further
31

32 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District, in convention, declare its intention to
33 continue certifying lay deacons and licensing them for preaching and administration of
34 the sacraments in emergencies; and be it further
35

36 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District facilitate a conversation within the LCMS to
37 develop a clear, reasonable, and consistent path for the training, certification, and
38 licensure of lay deacons Synod-wide that takes into account the present actions of lay
39 deacons in districts like the Southeastern District; and be it finally
40

41 **RESOLVED**, That this path remain consistent over time, as the seminary path has.
42

43 Submitted by:
44 Circuit Forum of Circuit 8 on November 5, 2017

¹ Cf. 1989 Resolution 3-05B; also, more recently, 2013 Resolution 4-06A, page 4.



1 **OVERTURE 01-18-04: TO SUPPORT GAINESVILLE, VIRGINIA MISSION**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, the Mission Committee of Circuits 9A and 9B has been instrumental in
4 collecting congregational best practices by creating a monthly forum at which to
5 exchange ideas; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, the Mission Committee of Circuits 9A and 9B has been involved in
8 targeting new mission starts across the Circuits because of those Circuit exchanges;
9 and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, it has become clear through exchange of ideas by Circuit and District
12 leaders, and leaders of congregations in the middle and southern portion of Circuit 9B
13 that a new start is needed in the Gainesville, Virginia area; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, leaders of Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church in Ashburn, Vine & Branches
16 Lutheran Church in South Riding, and Hope Lutheran Church in Manassas have all
17 seen a reason to focus on work in this area, and talk collectively about it; therefore be it

18
19 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District (SED) affirm work in the Gainesville,
20 Virginia area as a new mission opportunity under the leadership of the Circuit 9 Mission
21 Committee, Circuit 9B, and the Southeastern District.

22
23 Submitted by:
24 Circuit Forums of Circuits 9A and 9B on October 26, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 01-18-05: TO ENCOURAGE PARTNERSHIP WITH MISSION OF**
2 **CHRIST NETWORK TO INTENTIONALLY PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Our God sends His church into the world (Acts 1:8) that all might be saved
5 and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:3-4); and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, This sending is an act of God’s love and mercy to the lost; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, The church is an instrument in the hands of God sent to proclaim His
10 kingdom to the world; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, All Christians are called to “live as those sent by Christ” (LW 69:336);
13 therefore be it
14

15 **RESOLVED**, That the district encourage individual and congregational partnership with
16 the Mission of Christ Network to engage in long and short-term mission opportunities.
17

18 Submitted by:
19 Circuit Forum of Circuit 10 on November 19, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 01-18-06: TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT OF RSOS (RECOGNIZED**
2 **SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS) WITHIN SYNOD AND DISTRICT**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, we are blessed with many various ministries within the Southeastern
5 district and throughout the Synod that do wonderful work; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, at a time in Southeastern district and within Synod monies seem to be less
8 than in the past; and

9
10 **WHEREAS**, we have wonderful RSOs within our Synod and with the Southeastern
11 district; therefore be it

12
13 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern district and her churches be encouraged to support
14 the work of Synod and RSO's of the Synod through their monies and time; and be it
15 finally

16
17 **RESOLVED**, That we give thanks for the many RSO's within our Synod and district.

18
19 Submitted by:

20 Circuit Forums of Circuits 16 and 17 on November 12, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 01-18-07: TO SUPPORT RSO'S WITHIN SYNOD AND DISTRICT**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, we are blessed with many various ministries within the Southeastern
4 district and throughout the Synod that do wonderful work; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, at a time in Southeastern district and within Synod monies seem to be less
7 than in the past; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, we have wonderful RSO's within our Synod and with the Southeastern
10 district; therefore be it

11
12 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern district and her churches be encouraged to support
13 the work of RSO's of the Synod through their monies and time; and be it finally

14
15 **RESOLVED**, That we give thanks for the many RSO's within our Synod and district.

16
17 Submitted by:
18 Circuit Forum of Circuit 6 on November 12, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 01-18-08: TO SUPPORT LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD (LC-**
2 **MS) REGISTERED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS (RSOS) IN THE SOUTHEASTERN**
3 **DISTRICT (SED)**

4
5 **WHEREAS**, many diverse ministries exist within the Southeastern district and in the LC-
6 MS which support the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the
7 sacraments; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, many of these ministries are RSOs of our Synod which represent a broad
10 range of service areas; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, currently finances are quite limited in the SED and in the LC-MS; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, often the RSOs are forgotten, overlooked, and underutilized within the
15 SED; therefore be it

16
17 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District recognize and support the work of the
18 theologically approved RSOs of the LC-MS; and be it further

19
20 **RESOLVED**, That financial support for RSOs take priority over non RSOs; and be it
21 finally

22
23 **RESOLVED**, That all thanks be to God for the various RSOs of the LC-MS for their
24 work in our district.

25
26 Submitted by:

27 Circuit Forum of Circuit 13E on October 29, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 01-18-09: TO RECONSIDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM FOR**
2 **PREPARING PASTORS**

3
4 **RATIONALE:** In the most recent Synodical Convention, the Synod assembled
5 expressed the desire for all ministers of the Word and Sacrament to henceforth be
6 Ordained Pastor and called for the end of using “licensed” or “certified” laymen for such
7 ministry. There are a number of primarily smaller congregations that can anticipate no
8 Word and Sacrament ministry due to the lack of an Ordained Pastor once the licensed
9 laymen can no longer serve them. In addition, most Districts of The Lutheran Church-
10 Missouri Synod (LCMS) anticipate mission and ministry starts that will also require
11 Ordained Pastors should they desire to begin new Word and Sacrament ministries in
12 their midst. Couple that both with the vast numbers of pastors currently on the Roster of
13 Synod who are aging and the low numbers of men entering the seminaries of the
14 LCMS, and Synod is looking at a vastly smaller pastoral roster in the foreseeable future.

15
16 In his book, *Gospel DNA: Five Markers of a Flourishing Church*, Michael W. Newman
17 speaks of times of movement and times of pause in the history of the LCMS. In
18 particular, he quotes from Meyer’s *Moving Frontiers* this report from the Ft. Wayne
19 Seminary in 1856 (p. 217): “More than half of those who graduated from the seminary in
20 Ft. Wayne during the first nine years of the school’s existence attended from one to two
21 years; about one third of them, two to three years. The aim was to provide men with the
22 most practical instruction so that they would enter the work as early as possible.”

23
24 For many years, there was an educational “system” in use by the LCMS in preparing
25 young men to serve in the pastoral office. There was the “preparatory schools” (which
26 mirror contemporary ‘High Schools’) that led to a two-year “college” education that led to
27 the seminary experience of two-three years with a vicarage experience. At the end of
28 this “system,” pastors were called to serve as parish pastors without a Masters of
29 Divinity. In the more recent years (1960’s and beyond) the system was changed into a
30 requirement of a Bachelor’s degree and then the Master of Divinity degree, all through a
31 residential program. In recent years, “alternative routes” leading to ordination were
32 developed, leading to the current Specific Ministry Program (SMP) and the Ethnic
33 Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) as well the school for Hispanic Studies. The
34 preferred course is the residential seminary program (as evidenced by the actions of the
35 2016 Synodical Convention).

36
37 **WHEREAS**, there are currently fewer students entering the traditional, residence
38 Seminary program leading to earning a Master of Divinity for the sake of becoming
39 Ordained Pastors; and

40
41 **WHEREAS**, there are a number of reasons which could be identified for such lower
42 enrollments (such as costs, relocation, and other such concerns); and

43
44 **WHEREAS**, the need for Ordained Pastors to be trained and made available for the
45 work of Word and Sacrament ministry in the foreseeable future among the
46 congregations of the LCMS is high; and



47
48 **WHEREAS**, the requirement for the extent of training necessary for men who desire to
49 serve as Ordained Pastors in the LCMS can be altered without offending Augsburg
50 Confession, Article XIV, which states: “Our churches teach that no one should publicly
51 teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments without a rightly ordered call.”;
52 therefore be it

53
54 **RESOLVED**, that the LCMS in Convention assembled be petitioned to study changes in
55 the current educational “system” to allow for a streamlined program of practical theology
56 with sufficient exegetical, systematic, and historical theology backgrounds as to allow
57 men to be trained and certified with a call within a four-year timeframe and a continuing
58 education process for further development; and be it further

59
60 **RESOLVED**, that those men who desire to earn the Master of Divinity be allowed to
61 continue to do so, either through continuing education or by completing the current,
62 residential program; and be it finally

63
64 **RESOLVED**, that the universities, colleges, and seminaries of the LCMS together form
65 the vehicle for such a streamlined program to reduce costs, relocation, and other such
66 concerns that dishearten men preparing for Office of Public Ministry within the LCMS.

67
68 Submitted by:
69 Bethel Lutheran Church, Claremont, NC on December 3, 2017
70 Circuit Forum of Circuit 15 on December 2, 2017
71 Circuit Forum of Circuit 16 on November 12, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 02-18-01: TO CREATE A PROGRAM THROUGHOUT THE**
2 **DISTRICT THAT SUPPORT ALL FAMILIES AND GIVE ACCESS TO HIGH**
3 **QUALITY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

4
5 **WHEREAS**, God commands parents, "Train up a child in the way he should
6 go; even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6); and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Martin Luther said that "the schools will prove the very gates of hell,
9 unless they diligently labour in explaining the Holy Scriptures, and engraving them
10 on the hearts of the youth"; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, God commands us to love our neighbors; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the Church is commanded to reach out into our communities; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, it is important for ALL families to have access to High Quality
17 Educational programs; therefore be it
18

19 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District office encourage early childhood
20 programs to research ways to provide quality, educational and spiritual services
21 to working families; and be it further
22

23 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District designate funding to support and
24 equip early childhood directors to do this research, and be it further
25

26 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District designate funding to support and equip
27 Pastors of Early Childhood programs to make this shift in service; and be it finally
28

29 **RESOLVED**, That Southeastern District congregations pray for leaders
30 and early childhood programs throughout the Southeastern District.
31

32 Submitted by:
33 Circuit Forum of Circuit 12 on October 3, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 02-18-02: TO CREATE A PROGRAM TO SUPPORT AND TRAIN**
2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DIRECTORS TO LEAD EARLY**
3 **CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT**
4

5 **WHEREAS**, God commands parents, "Train up a child in the way he should
6 go; even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6); and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Martin Luther said that "the schools will prove the very gates of hell,
9 unless they diligently labour in explaining the Holy Scriptures, and engraving
10 them on the hearts of the youth"; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, It is essential to equip and support Lutheran administrators in their
13 roles as leaders in Lutheran Early Childhood Programs; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, it is essential to have competent administrators to lead programs;
16 therefore be it
17

18 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District create a team to develop training
19 modules in the following topics: Budget, Leadership, Church/School
20 Relationships, and Parent partnerships; and be it further
21

22 **RESOLVED**, that the Southeastern District will fund this team in research,
23 development and implementation district wide; and be it finally
24

25 **RESOLVED**, that district congregations pray for leaders and early
26 childhood programs throughout the district.
27

28 Submitted by:
29 Circuit Forum of Circuit 12 on October 3, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 02-18-03: TO RESEARCH APPROPRIATE EARLY**
2 **CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CURRICULA FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD**
3 **PROGRAMS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT**

4
5 **WHEREAS**, God commands parents, "Train up a child in the way he should
6 go; even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6); and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Martin Luther said that "the schools will prove the very gates of hell,
9 unless they diligently labour in explaining the Holy Scriptures, and engraving them
10 on the hearts of the youth"; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, an appropriate and high quality curriculum is necessary in Early
13 Childhood Programs to meet spiritual, social, physical and cognitive goals; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, it is essential to equip Lutheran administrators and teachers in their
16 roles as a part of Lutheran Early Childhood Programs; therefore be it
17

18 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District will create a curriculum team to
19 research high quality early childhood curricula; and be it further
20

21 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District will fund this team in research,
22 development and implementation district wide; and be it finally
23

24 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District will provide support in people and
25 funding for the preparation of early childhood and school administrators with
26 regard to this curricula.
27

28 Submitted by:
29 Circuit Forum of Circuit 12 on October 3, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 02-18-04: TO ESTABLISH A POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF WORKER**
2 **AND CONGREGATIONAL CARE**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the needs of church workers require specific, ministry-related care that is
5 not readily available; and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, congregations also require specific assistance when faced with challenges
8 to their mission and ministry work; therefore be it
9

10 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
11 establish a Director of Worker and Congregational Care position; and be it further
12

13 **RESOLVED**, That this position be specifically tasked with counseling and offering
14 resources for counseling church workers and congregations in dealing with their
15 particular challenges; and be it finally
16

17 **RESOLVED**, That the position of Director of Worker and Congregational Care work
18 directly under the direction of the President of the Southeastern District.
19

20 Submitted by:

21 Bethel Lutheran Church, Claremont, NC on December 3, 2017

22 Circuit Forums of Circuits 16 and 17 on November 12, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 02-18-05: TO SUPPORT LCMSU**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, the Lord has promised that the Holy Spirit wills all the elect to faith; and

4
5 **WHEREAS**, the Lord has created, sustains, and continues to grow His church on this
6 earth in the way that He chooses; and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, the college age youth of our congregations need to be connected to that
9 church in a very real and tangible way, so that they too might receive the Word and
10 Sacraments during their time away from home; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, the Lord has raised up many LCMS U's in the Southeastern District to help
13 connect college students to the church; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, the LCMS U chapters have been moved by the power of the Holy Spirit to
16 reach out to the various students on their college campuses; therefore be it

17
18 **RESOLVED**, That congregations of the Southeastern district share the names and
19 contact information of students that they have going to any of the following schools that
20 are have LCMS U's connected with them:

21 LCMS U Hopkins (Our Saviour Lutheran Church), serving John Hopkins University,
22 Towson University, Morgan State and Loyola University
23 Redeemer Lutheran Church, serving University of Maryland, College Park
24 The Breath, serving George Mason University
25 Lutheran Campus Ministry, serving Gallaudet University
26 LCMS at UVA, serving University of Virginia
27 Concordia Lutheran Mission, serving Virginia Military Institute, Washington and Lee
28 University
29 Lutheran Outreach at Virginia Tech, serving Virginia Tech
30 LCMS U serving Liberty U
31 Richmond Lutheran Campus Ministry, serving Virginia Commonwealth University &
32 University of Richmond
33 Lutheran Student Fellowship, serving Lenoir-Rhyne University, Catawba Valley
34 Community College
35 Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Campus Ministry, serving Clemson University
36 Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd serving Furman University, Bob Jones
37 University, Greenville Tech. College, North Greenville University
38 LCMS U Charleston serving The Citadel, College of Charleston; and be it further

39
40 **RESOLVED**, That congregations in the Southeastern District are encouraged to use the
41 following website <https://www.lcms.org/campus-ministry/find-lcms-u-chapter> to find
42 a LCMS U chapter to send their students to and encourage them to go to them; and be
43 it further

44
45 **RESOLVED**, That the congregations of the Southeastern District as they are able
46 support the LCMSU ministry in the Southeastern District and throughout the Synod; and
47 be it finally



48
49 **RESOLVED**, That the congregation of the Southeastern District are encouraged to pray
50 for the LCMSU ministries and all congregations as they ministers to all college age
51 members of the church.

52
53 Submitted by:
54 Circuit Forum of Circuit 6 on November 14, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 02-18-06: TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT OF LCMS UNIVERSITY**
2 **CHAPTERS**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the Lord has promised that the Holy Spirit wills all the elect to faith; and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the Lord has created, sustains, and continues to grow His church on this
7 earth in the way that He chooses; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, the college age youth of our congregations need to be connected to that
10 church in a very real and tangible way, so that they too might receive the Word and
11 Sacraments during their time away from home; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, the Lord has raised up many LCMS University chapters in the
14 Southeastern District to help connect college students to the church; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, the LCMS University chapters have been moved by the power of the Holy
17 Spirit to reach out to the various students on their college campuses; therefore be it

18
19 **RESOLVED**, That congregations of the Southeastern district share the names and
20 contact information of students that they have going to any of the following LCMS
21 University Chapters connected to universities located in the Southeastern district:

22
23 LCMS U Hopkins (Our Savior Lutheran Church), serving John Hopkins University,
24 Towson University, Morgan State and Loyola University
25 Redeemer Lutheran Church, serving University of Maryland, College Park
26 The Breath, serving George Mason University
27 Lutheran Campus Ministry, serving Gallaudet University
28 LCMS at UVA, serving University of Virginia
29 Concordia Lutheran Mission, serving Virginia Military Institute, Washington and Lee
30 University
31 Lutheran Outreach at Virginia Tech, serving Virginia Tech
32 LCMS U serving Liberty U
33 Richmond Lutheran Campus Ministry, serving Virginia Commonwealth University &
34 University of Richmond
35 Lutheran Student Fellowship, serving Lenoir-Rhyne University, Catawba Valley
36 Community College
37 Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Campus Ministry, serving Clemson University
38 Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd serving Furman University, Bob Jones
39 University, Greenville Tech. College, North Greenville University
40 LCMS U Charleston serving The Citadel, College of Charleston; and be it further

41
42 **RESOLVED**, That congregations in the Southeastern District are encouraged to use the
43 following website <https://www.lcms.org/campus-ministry/find-lcms-u-chapter> to find
44 a LCMS U chapter to send their students to and encourage them to go to them; and be
45 it further



47 **RESOLVED**, That the congregations of the Southeastern District as they are able
48 support the LCMSU ministry in the Southeastern District and throughout the Synod; and
49 be it finally

50
51 **RESOLVED**, That the congregation of the Southeastern District pledge to pray for the
52 LCMSU ministries and all congregations as they minister to all college age members of
53 the church.

54
55 Submitted by:
56 Circuit Forum of Circuit 17 on November 12, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 02-18-07: TO GIVE THANKS FOR OUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND**
2 **STAFF IN THEIR ADVISORY ROLES TO CALLING CONGREGATIONS**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the District President and his staff do an excellent job in helping a calling
5 congregation through the process and gathering names of potential pastors; and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, this is an invaluable service to a calling congregation in need of a pastor to
8 bring Word and Sacrament to them; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, we realize every congregation is autonomous within the Synod and can use
11 the help of the District President and the staff at their discretion; therefore be it
12

13 **RESOLVED**, That we give thanks for the work of the District President and staff for the
14 advisory work they do to help a calling congregation.
15

16 Submitted by:

17 Circuit Forum of Circuit 6 on November 14, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 02-18-08: TO GIVE THANKS FOR OUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND**
2 **STAFF IN THEIR ADVISORY ROLES TO CALLING CONGREGATIONS**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the District President and his staff do an excellent job in helping a calling
5 congregation through the process and gathering names of potential pastors; and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, this is an invaluable service to a calling congregation in need of a pastor to
8 bring Word and Sacrament to them; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, we realize every congregation is autonomous within the Synod and can use
11 the help of the District President and the staff at their discretion; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, congregations sometimes rely too much on the District President and staff
14 and less on themselves during the call process; therefore be it
15

16 **RESOLVED**, That every congregation be reminded that the District President and staff
17 are advisory only to each congregation within the district; and be it finally
18

19 **RESOLVED**, That we give thanks for the work of the District President and staff for the
20 advisory work they do to help a calling congregation.
21

22 Submitted by:

23 Circuit Forums of Circuits 16 and 17 on November 12, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 02-18-09: TO ASK FOR GUIDANCE REGARDING NON-LEGAL**
2 **MARRIAGES RECOGNIZED BY THE CHURCH**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the LCMS has consistently held that the estate of marriage is a divine
5 institution subject to certain divine requirements remaining in effect “regardless of the
6 social customs, civil laws, or ecclesiastical rites which may which may come to surround
7 it;”² and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, marriage as defined by the United States government since 2015
10 (Obergefell v. Hodges) no longer conforms to the biblical design of marriage as a
11 lifelong union of one man and one woman entered into by mutual consent; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, future legal challenges following in the wake of Obergefell v. Hodges could
14 conceivably further erode the civil laws surrounding either the nature of marriage itself
15 or the status of clergy authorized by the government to conduct licensed marriages; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the states of Maryland and Delaware presently do not require licensure of
18 clergy for officiating at weddings or performing marriages;³ and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, LCMS pastors may encounter individuals who desire to be married but, for
21 whatever reason, do not want the government to license their marriage; therefore be it
22

23 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District in Convention request that the CTCR study
24 the issue of LCMS pastors voluntarily relinquishing any licensure by state governments
25 to perform marriages; and be it finally
26

27 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District in Convention request that the CTCR study
28 the issue of performing marriages in the church without state acknowledgement or
29 reportage as well as the blessing of marriages made according to state licensure.
30

31 Submitted by:
32 Circuit Forum of Circuit 8 on November 5, 2017

² Cf. Genesis 2:18, 24 and the CTCR document “Human Sexuality: A Theological Perspective,” 10.

³ E.g., Maryland Code 2-406. As laws vary by state, we recognize that greater clarity on the issue might benefit those who serve in places where requirements regarding clergy licensure are in place.



1 **OVERTURE 03-18-01: TO RECOGNIZE THE WORK OF MID-ATLANTIC**
2 **LUTHERANS IN MISSION AS A FUNDING SOURCE FOR SED MISSION EFFORTS**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, The Southeastern District was formed for the sake of advancing the Gospel
5 of Jesus Christ in a geographic area where the fields were ripe for the harvest; and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Today the opportunity to reach more than 32 million people within the area
8 of the District continues to demonstrate a great opportunity for mission work; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the funding of mission comes from congregations, individuals, and
11 agencies who share the same goal of reaching all people with the Gospel; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the opportunities for people to support and contribute to mission work
14 include numerous sources: Mission Partnership Support, Planned Giving, Mid-Atlantic
15 Lutherans in Mission, and Giving Tuesday; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, Mid-Atlantic Lutherans in Mission has been organized to serve as another
18 source for mission support in the Southeastern District; therefore be it
19

20 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District in Convention rejoice and give thanks to
21 God for congregations and individuals who provide support for the work of the Gospel
22 throughout the district; and be it further
23

24 **RESOLVED**, That the SED recognize Mid-Atlantic Lutherans in Mission as an agency
25 that is fully supportive of the work of funding mission advancement and committed to
26 connecting giving opportunities with mission work; and be it further
27

28 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District in Convention recognize with thanksgiving
29 those who faithfully serve in Mission Partnership Support, Planned Giving, Mid-Atlantic
30 Lutherans in Mission and Giving Tuesday; and be it finally
31

32 **RESOLVED**, That each congregation, individual, and mission organization is
33 encouraged to support the work of mission advancement through the means or
34 opportunities provided within the Southeastern District through mission partnership
35 support, individual contributions, Mid-Atlantic Lutherans in Mission, and special gifts.
36

37 Submitted by:

38 King of Glory Lutheran Church, Williamsburg, VA on December 5, 2017

39 Circuit Forum of Circuit 10 on November 19, 2017

40 Circuit Forum of Circuit 15 on December 2, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 03-18-02: TO REDUCE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION**
2 **COSTS**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, we are blessed to have the opportunities to come together as the
5 Southeastern district in extended day conferences; and

6
7 **WHEREAS**, we commend the Southeastern district over the years for looking to keep
8 convention and conference costs down so they might be more affordable that all
9 congregations can send their workers; therefore be it

10
11 **RESOLVED**, That the district to continue to look to keep costs down on extended district
12 conferences so that all congregations can send their workers.

13
14 Submitted by:

15 Circuit Forums of Circuits 16 and 17 on November 12, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 03-18-03: TO ENSURE PROPER FINANCIAL REPORTING TO THE**
2 **SYNOD**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, a principle of Biblical stewardship is to be accountable with the resources
5 with which one has been entrusted, as expressed in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew
6 25:14ff; Luke 19:11ff); and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, much is required of those to whom God has entrusted His gifts. As Jesus
9 said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to
10 whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b); and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the Scriptures teach “it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1
13 Corinthians 4:2); and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the Synod has historically recognized its responsibility of accountability and
16 faithfulness in the handling of the finances entrusted to it by its members, as is
17 witnessed in Bylaw 1.5.4, “The Synod and each of its agencies shall fully disclose their
18 financial books and records to any member congregation of the Synod;” and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, the Synod in previous conventions has expressed its opinion that such
21 accountability and faithfulness be found additionally in regular reporting of such financial
22 disclosure by adopting 2010 Convention Resolution 4-03, “To Broadly Communicate the
23 Statement of the Financial Position of the LCMS,” which reads:
24

25 “Whereas, it is helpful to understand the Synod’s financial position and
26 communicate it to the members of the congregations of Synod; therefore, be it
27

28 Resolved, that each November, the Vice-President-Finance-Treasurer of the
29 Synod use widely available means, (i.e., The Lutheran Witness, Reporter, the
30 LCMS Website) to state the financial position of the Synod in a format easily
31 understood by persons unfamiliar with financial terminology.” (2010 Convention
32 Proceedings, p. 120); and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, the members of the Synod expressed even further the need for full
35 transparency in all areas of financial disclosure by adopting 2016 Convention Resolution
36 9-04A, “To Improve Disclosures Related to Financial Gifts from God’s Stewards for
37 Special Appeals,” which stated in part:
38

39 “Whereas, monies for special appeals requested by corporate Synod (e.g.,
40 following natural disasters) are reported only in part in Synod publications (e.g.,
41 Reporter and The Lutheran Witness) and sometimes only annually; and...
42

43 Whereas, donors and members of the Synod are interested in the impact of funds
44 raised for special appeals and will appreciate improved disclosure of results;
45 therefore, be it
46



47 Resolved, that the financial offices of corporate Synod continue to recognize the
48 desire of donors and members of the Synod to improve processes of reporting
49 and work to provide clear, timely, and transparent accounting for all funding and
50 special appeals, so that the Body of Christ may experience the joy of Gospel-
51 centered mission and ministry beyond the local context or community.” (2016
52 Convention Proceedings, p. 189); and
53

54 **WHEREAS**, it was reported to the 2013 Convention of the Synod by the Board of
55 Directors in its “Report on the Disposition of Funding the Mission Recommendations
56 (R6-03-01)” that “the decline in the Synod’s annual restricted revenue continues...The
57 Board believes that congregations will respond through better, open, and honest
58 communication about the great things God is able to accomplish for His kingdom when
59 we work together. Numerous conventions have passed resolutions calling on
60 congregations to maintain and increase unrestricted support for district and Synod
61 ministries, yet the unrestricted support passed through our districts to the Synod has
62 continued to decline at the average rate of \$1 million each year.” (2013 Convention
63 Workbook 2013, pp. 114-115); and,
64

65 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, the Chief Financial Officer of the Synod, in reporting to the Synod
66 about offerings received, stated, “This sharing from God’s bounty continues to decline.
67 Although the amount of decline in the past three years has not been as severe as the
68 average decline of the previous 20 years, it is still trending negatively. In the face of
69 continued declining unrestricted revenues, the ability of Synod, Inc. to respond quickly
70 and nimbly to mission and ministry opportunities and challenges laid before us by the
71 Lord also declines, as does our ability to ‘fill in the gap’ when restricted revenues,
72 needed to fund much of our mission and ministry activities, fall short of their goals. The
73 financial challenges facing our beloved Synod persist. *I believe that these challenges
74 are of our own making, a product of how we distribute the resources provided by our
75 loving Father.*” (2016 Convention Workbook, pp. 61-62, *emphasis added*); and
76

77 **WHEREAS**, there have been few tangible reports about the financial struggles of the
78 Synod, such as the need to trim \$4 million from the budget of Synod (ref. July 7, 2017
79 Reporter – <https://www.lcms.org/2017/international-national-mission>) and the May 19-
80 20, 2017 Synod Board of Directors’ minutes
81 (<https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=4769>), these reports are less than
82 sufficient or thorough to keep the members of Synod regularly informed about the
83 financial condition of the Synod; and
84

85 **WHEREAS**, it has been reported that the Synod has only minimal days of operating
86 capital in its cash reserves, placing the Synod in a precarious financial position which
87 ought to be of great concern of the members of the Synod (ref. Paragraph 45 of the
88 Financial Reports of the February 17018, 2017 LCMS Board of Directors’ Minutes
89 (<https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=4659>), which stated that without
90 funds held on behalf of the two Seminaries, Synod had only five days of cash available;
91 and
92



93 **WHEREAS**, in the face of such challenging financial times, transparency and regularity
94 in reporting of the financial situation of the Synod is of utmost importance to the
95 members and congregations of the Synod who have a vested interest in the financial
96 viability of the Synod and who merit clear, concise, and timely reports; and
97

98 **WHEREAS**, the President of the Synod recommended in his report to the Synod in 2016
99 that the Synod have “Uniform Financial Reporting” (2016 Today’s Business, p. 28);
100 therefore be it
101

102 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod,
103 gathered in Convention in May 20-12, 2018, request that the Chief Financial Officer to
104 report on a quarterly basis in the Synod’s official publications and the LCMS Website
105 about the financial position of the Synod, in a format easily understood by persons
106 unfamiliar with financial terminology, such reporting to include, but not be limited to
107 income and expenses, budget versus spending, cash reserves, etc.; and be it further
108

109 **RESOLVED**, That the Synod be clearly informed of the ongoing financial situation of
110 corporate Synod up until the beginning of the 2019 Synod Convention in Orlando,
111 Florida, that all members, congregations, and delegates be kept abreast of all last-
112 minute financial details; and be it further
113

114 **RESOLVED**, That quarterly reports include information about the regular Synod budget
115 and the reporting on special appeals as stipulated in 2016 Resolution 9-04A; and be it
116 further
117

118 **RESOLVED**, That the Synod be shrewd and faithful managers with the resources God
119 has given to it; and be it finally
120

121 **RESOLVED**, that the Synod give thanks to God for the resources He has entrusted to
122 us, recognizing “That the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof” (Psalm 24:1).
123

124 Submitted by:
125 Bethel Lutheran Church, Claremont, NC on December 12, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 03-18-04: TO ENSURE PROPER FINANCIAL REPORTING TO THE**
2 **SYNOD**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, a principle of Biblical stewardship is to be accountable with the resources
5 with which one has been entrusted, as expressed in the Parable of the Talents
6 (Matthew 25:14ff; Luke 19:11ff); and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, much is required of those to whom God has entrusted His gifts. As Jesus
9 said, "Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to
10 whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more" (Luke 12:48b); and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the Scriptures teach "it is required of stewards that they be found faithful"
13 (1 Corinthians 4:2); and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the Synod has historically recognized its responsibility of accountability and
16 faithfulness in the handling of the finances entrusted to it by its members, as is
17 witnessed in Bylaw 1.5.4, "The Synod and each of its agencies shall fully disclose their
18 financial books and records to any member congregation of the Synod;" and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, the Synod in previous conventions has expressed its opinion that such
21 accountability and faithfulness be found additionally in regular reporting of such financial
22 disclosure by adopting 2010 Convention Resolution 4-03, "To Broadly Communicate the
23 Statement of the Financial Position of the LCMS," which reads:
24

25 "Whereas, it is helpful to understand the Synod's financial position and
26 communicate it to the members of the congregations of Synod; therefore, be it
27

28 Resolved, that each November, the Vice-President-Finance-Treasurer of the
29 Synod use widely available means, (i.e., The Lutheran Witness, Reporter, the
30 LCMS Website) to state the financial position of the Synod in a format easily
31 understood by persons unfamiliar with financial terminology." (2010 Convention
32 Proceedings, p. 120); and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, the members of the Synod expressed even further the need for full
35 transparency in all areas of financial disclosure by adopting 2016 Convention
36 Resolution 9-04A, "To Improve Disclosures Related to Financial Gifts from God's
37 Stewards for Special Appeals," which stated in part:
38

39 "Whereas, monies for special appeals requested by corporate Synod (e.g.,
40 following natural disasters) are reported only in part in Synod publications (e.g.,
41 Reporter and The Lutheran Witness) and sometimes only annually; and...
42

43 Whereas, donors and members of the Synod are interested in the impact of
44 funds raised for special appeals and will appreciate improved disclosure of
45 results; therefore, be it
46



47 Resolved, that the financial offices of corporate Synod continue to recognize the
48 desire of donors and members of the Synod to improve processes of reporting
49 and work to provide clear, timely, and transparent accounting for all funding and
50 special appeals, so that the Body of Christ may experience the joy of Gospel-
51 centered mission and ministry beyond the local context or community.” (2016
52 Convention Proceedings, p. 189); and
53

54 **WHEREAS**, it was reported to the 2013 Convention of the Synod by the Board of
55 Directors in its “Report on the Disposition of Funding the Mission Recommendations
56 (R6-03-01)” that “the decline in the Synod’s annual restricted revenue continues...The
57 Board believes that congregations will respond through better, open, and honest
58 communication about the great things God is able to accomplish for His kingdom when
59 we work together. Numerous conventions have passed resolutions calling on
60 congregations to maintain and increase unrestricted support for district and Synod
61 ministries, yet the unrestricted support passed through our districts to the Synod has
62 continued to decline at the average rate of \$1 million each year.” (2013 Convention
63 Workbook 2013, pp. 114-115); and
64

65 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, the Chief Financial Officer of the Synod, in reporting to the Synod
66 about offerings received, stated, “This sharing from God’s bounty continues to decline.
67 Although the amount of decline in the past three years has not been as severe as the
68 average decline of the previous 20 years, it is still trending negatively. In the face of
69 continued declining unrestricted revenues, the ability of Synod, Inc. to respond quickly
70 and nimbly to mission and ministry opportunities and challenges laid before us by the
71 Lord also declines, as does our ability to ‘fill in the gap’ when restricted revenues,
72 needed to fund much of our mission and ministry activities, fall short of their goals. The
73 financial challenges facing our beloved Synod persist. *I believe that these challenges
74 are of our own making, a product of how we distribute the resources provided by our
75 loving Father.*” (2016 Convention Workbook, pp. 61-62, *emphasis added*); and
76

77 **WHEREAS**, there have been few tangible reports about the financial struggles of the
78 Synod, such as the need to trim \$4 million from the budget of Synod (ref. July 7, 2017
79 Reporter – <https://www.lcms.org/2017/international-national-mission>) and the May 19-
80 20, 2017 Synod Board of Directors’ minutes
81 (<https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=4769>), these reports are less than
82 sufficient or thorough to keep the members of Synod regularly informed about the
83 financial condition of the Synod; and
84

85 **WHEREAS**, it has been reported that the Synod has only minimal days of operating
86 capital in its cash reserves, placing the Synod in a precarious financial position which
87 ought to be of great concern of the members of the Synod (ref. Paragraph 45 of the
88 Financial Reports of the February 17018, 2017 LCMS Board of Directors’ Minutes
89 (<https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=4659>), which stated that without
90 funds held on behalf of the two Seminaries, Synod had only five days of cash available;
91 and
92



93 **WHEREAS**, in the face of such challenging financial times, transparency and regularity
94 in reporting of the financial situation of the Synod is of utmost importance to the
95 members and congregations of the Synod who have a vested interest in the financial
96 viability of the Synod and who merit clear, concise, and timely reports; and

97
98 **WHEREAS**, the President of the Synod recommended in his report to the Synod in
99 2016 that the Synod have “Uniform Financial Reporting” (2016 Today’s Business, p.
100 28); therefore be it

101
102 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod,
103 gathered in Convention in May 20-12, 2018, request that the Chief Financial Officer to
104 report on a quarterly basis in the Synod’s official publications and the LCMS Website
105 about the financial position of the Synod, in a format easily understood by persons
106 unfamiliar with financial terminology, such reporting to include, but not be limited to
107 income and expenses, budget versus spending, cash reserves, etc.; and be it further
108

109 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District encourage, that the Synod be clearly
110 informed of the ongoing financial situation of corporate Synod up until the beginning of
111 the 2019 Synod Convention in Orlando, Florida, that all members, congregations, and
112 delegates be kept abreast of all last-minute financial details; and be it further
113

114 **RESOLVED**, That quarterly reports include information about the regular Synod budget
115 and the reporting on special appeals as stipulated in 2016 Resolution 9-04A; and be it
116 further
117

118 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District encourage, that the Synod be shrewd and
119 faithful managers with the resources God has given to it; and be it finally
120

121 **RESOLVED**, That the Synod give thanks to God for the resources He has entrusted to
122 us, recognizing “That the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof” (Psalm 24:1).
123

124 Submitted by:
125 Circuit Forum of Circuit 16 on November 12, 2017



1 **OV 04-18-01: TO NOT DISENFRANCHISE MEMBERS OF SYNOD FROM**
2 **ATTENDING THE DISTRICT CONVENTION**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the schedule of the District Convention usually takes place when the Day
5 Schools are in session and this makes attendance of called school staff difficult or
6 impossible; and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, the primary purpose of the District Convention is to gather the members of
9 Synod together to conduct the business of the District and hear reports on the District
10 activities, programs, and plans; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, the District exists to help facilitate congregational Word and Sacrament
13 ministry and mission; therefore be it

14
15 **RESOLVED**, that District would not schedule the Convention during the School Year or
16 when it would keep pastors from their pulpits on Sundays or other festivals due to
17 scheduling or location.

18
19 Submitted by:

20 St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Catonsville, MD on December 3, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 05-18-01: TO RESCIND CCM 16-2791**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, the Commission on Constitutional Matters rendered Opinion 16-2791
4 stating that (then) current Bylaws regarding “ecclesiastical supervision” in The Lutheran
5 Church-Missouri Synod were “unconstitutional” giving the accuser the right to appeal the
6 decision of a District President when he fails to act or declines to suspend a worker’s
7 membership in the Synod; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, the Commission on Constitutional Matters refused to accept the clear
10 language of Constitution Article XI that does not give the Synod President the specific
11 authority to suspend, where Article XII, 8 gives specific authority to District Presidents to
12 suspend from membership ordained and commissioned ministers; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution Articles XI, A, 1 and XIV give no explicit constitutional
15 authority to suspend or expel members, thus, the Bylaws of Synod cannot confer such a
16 right to the President of Synod; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, upon the basis of Opinion 16-2791 the Commission on Constitutional
19 Matters brought forward Resolution 12-01A, “To Restore the Right of Accuser to Appeal
20 When a District President Fails to Act or Declines to Suspend,” to the 2016 Synodical
21 Convention which was postponed indefinitely; therefore be it

22
23 **RESOLVED**, That the Southeastern District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
24 declare that Constitutional Articles XI and XII are clear and unambiguous and should be
25 understood as they are written; and be it further

26
27 **RESOLVED**, that the Commission on Constitutional Matters Opinion 16-2791 been
28 rendered null and void by the next Synodical Convention; and be it further

29
30 **RESOLVED**, that the changes to the Bylaws authorized through Resolution 12-14, but
31 based on this erroneous opinion also be rendered null and void; and be it finally

32
33 **RESOLVED**, that The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Convention require the
34 formation of a Task Force to study the history of the exercise of ecclesiastical
35 supervision within the Synod as well as authorize the study of the Scriptures and
36 Confessions among the members of Synod to speak to this matter formally and finally
37 by the 2022 Convention.

38
39 Submitted by:
40 Bethel Lutheran Church, Claremont, NC on December 3, 2017
41 Circuit Forum of Circuit 16 on November 12, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 05-18-02: TO REMOVE SYNOD BYLAW 2.14.5**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the synod indicates: “The officers of the Synod must
4 assume only such rights as have been expressly conferred upon them by the Synod”
5 (Art. XI A 1); and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the Synod defines the scope of the ecclesiastical
8 supervision of the President of the Synod as the officers of the Synod, all such as are
9 employed by the Synod, the individual districts of the Synod, and all district presidents
10 (Art. XI B 1); and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the Synod defines the scope of the ecclesiastical
13 supervision of district presidents as the ordained and commissioned ministers of their
14 districts (Art. XII 7) and entrusts them with the power to suspend ordained and
15 commissioned members from membership in the Synod (Art. XII 8); and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the Synod has viewed itself as primarily congregational in nature
18 (Constitution Art. VII 1; Bylaw 1.3.3); and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, the CCM has affirmed the sole responsibility of the district presidents for
21 ecclesiastical supervision of members in their respective districts (Opinions Ag. 1970;
22 13-2669); and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, the 2004 LCMS convention amended the Bylaws to eliminate the possibility
25 of an accuser appealing a complaint that has been terminated by a district president to
26 the Presidium of the Synod; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, this amendment recognized the nonhierarchical nature of the Synod and
29 affirmed that complaints and accusations are best handled locally by those most familiar
30 with the circumstances and individuals involved, in keeping with the constitutional
31 authority given only to the district presidents; and
32

33 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors following the 66th Regular Convention held in
34 Milwaukee amended the Bylaws to provide opportunity for an accuser to appeal to the
35 President of the Synod if the District President does not suspend a member of synod;
36 and
37

38 **WHEREAS**, the Bylaw was added outside a Synod Convention; and
39

40 **WHEREAS**, the decision did not allow proper discussion by the Synod in Convention
41 and referred discussion to the Secretary of the Synod with limited discussion with the
42 Council of Presidents; and
43

44 **WHEREAS**, there was no consensus among the Council of Presidents, in fact
45 significant disagreement among the COP members; and
46



47 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors approved Bylaw 2 .14.5 without any conversation
48 with the COP; and

49
50 **WHEREAS**, Bylaw 2.14.5 is in conflict with the Constitution of the Synod Article XI B 1;
51 and

52
53 **WHEREAS**, permitting an appeal of an accusation or complaint against a member of the
54 Synod after a district president has terminated the matter undermines the ecclesiastical
55 supervision of the district president, tends to centralize power for ecclesiastical
56 supervision in the President of the Synod, and requires the accused to defend him or
57 herself twice (before the district president and the President of the Synod), placing the
58 accused in double jeopardy; and

59
60 **WHEREAS**, the necessity of the accused potentially having to defend more than once
61 costs an immense amount of time, energy, emotion, and money—resources that are
62 best expended upon ministry
63 needs; and

64
65 **WHEREAS**, misuse of an appeal by an accuser to the President of the Synod at best
66 might be described as mischief and at worst described as harassment, defaming the
67 good name of a member of the Synod and bearing false witness; therefore be it

68
69 **RESOLVED**, That the 2019 LCMS convention be memorialized to Remove Bylaw
70 2.14.5; and be it further

71
72 **RESOLVED**, That the 2019 LCMS convention reaffirm the method of ecclesiastical
73 supervision adopted in the Bylaw changes by the 2004 convention.

74
75 Submitted by:
76 Redeemer Lutheran Church, Richmond, VA on December 10, 2017
77 Circuit Forum of Circuit 10 on November 19, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 05-18-03: TO REMOVE BYLAW 2.14.5 ON ECCLESIASTICAL**
2 **SUPERVISION**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod indicates: “The
5 officers of the Synod must assume only such rights as have been expressly conferred
6 upon them by the Synod” (Art. XI A 1); and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the Synod defines the scope of the ecclesiastical
9 supervision of the President of the Synod as the officers of the Synod, all such as are
10 employed by the Synod, the individual districts of the Synod, and all District Presidents
11 (Art. XI B 1); and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the Synod defines the scope of the ecclesiastical
14 supervision of District Presidents as the ordained and commissioned ministers of their
15 districts (Art. XII 7) and entrusts them with the power to suspend ordained and
16 commissioned members from membership in the Synod (Art. XII 8); and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the Synod has viewed itself as primarily congregational in nature
19 (Constitution Art. VII 1; Bylaw 1.3.3); and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the Committee on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has affirmed the sole
22 responsibility of the District Presidents for ecclesiastical supervision of members in their
23 respective districts (Opinions Ag. 1970; 13-2669); and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the 2004 LCMS convention amended the Bylaws to eliminate the possibility
26 of an accuser appealing a complaint that has been terminated by a district president to
27 the Presidium of the Synod; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, this amendment recognized the nonhierarchical nature of the Synod and
30 affirmed that complaints and accusations are best handled locally by those most familiar
31 with the circumstances and individuals involved, in keeping with the constitutional
32 authority given only to the District Presidents; and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors following the 66th Regular LCMS Convention held in
35 Milwaukee in 2016 amended the Bylaws to provide opportunity for an accuser to appeal
36 to the President of the Synod if the District President does not suspend a member of
37 Synod; and
38

39 **WHEREAS**, the decision did not allow proper discussion by the Synod in Convention
40 and referred discussion to the Secretary of the Synod with limited discussion with the
41 Council of Presidents (COP); and
42

43 **WHEREAS**, there was no consensus among the Council of Presidents and in fact there
44 was significant disagreement among the COP members; and
45

46 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors approved Bylaw 2 .14.5 without any conversation
47 with the COP; and



48
49 **WHEREAS**, Bylaw 2.14.5 is in conflict with the Constitution of the Synod Article XI B 1;
50 and

51
52 **WHEREAS**, permitting an appeal of an accusation or complaint against a member of the
53 Synod after a District President has terminated the matter undermines the ecclesiastical
54 supervision of the District President, tends to centralize power for ecclesiastical
55 supervision in the President of the Synod, and requires the accused to defend himself or
56 herself twice (before the District President and the President of the Synod), placing the
57 accused in double jeopardy; and

58
59 **WHEREAS**, the necessity of the accused potentially having to defend more than once
60 costs and immense amount of time, energy, emotion, and money—resources that are
61 best expended upon ministry needs; therefore be it

62
63 **RESOLVED**, That the 2019 LCMS convention be memorialized to remove Bylaw 2.14.5;
64 and be it further

65
66 **RESOLVED**, That the 2019 LCMS convention reaffirm the method of ecclesiastical
67 supervision adopted in the Bylaw changes by the 2004 Convention.

68
69 Submitted by:
70 Circuit Forum of Circuits 9A and 9B on October 26, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 05-18-04: TO ADDRESS ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION**

2
3 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod indicates that
4 “The Officers of the Synod must assume only such rights as have been expressly
5 conferred upon them by the Synod” (Article XI.A.1); and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the Synod defines the scope of the ecclesiastical
8 supervision of the President of Synod as the officers of the Synod, all such as are
9 employed by the Synod, the individual districts of the Synod, and all District Presidents
10 (Article XI.B.1); and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the Synod defines the scope of the ecclesiastical
13 supervision of District Presidents as the ordained and commissioned ministers of their
14 respective districts (Article XII.7) and entrusts them with the authority to suspend
15 ordained and commissioned members from membership in the Synod (Article XII.8);
16 and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the Synod has viewed itself as primarily congregational in nature (Article
19 VII.1; Bylaw 1.3.3); and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has affirmed the sole
22 responsibility of the District Presidents for ecclesiastical supervision of members in their
23 respective Districts (Opinions Ag. 1970; 13-2669); and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the 2004 LCMS Convention amended the Bylaws to eliminate the
26 possibility of an accuser appealing a complaint that has been terminated by a District
27 President to the Praesidium of the Synod; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the amendment recognized the nonhierarchical nature of the Synod and
30 affirmed that complaints and accusations are best handled locally by those most familiar
31 with the circumstances and individuals involved, in keeping with the constitutional
32 authority given only to the District Presidents; and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, the Synod’s Board of Directors, following the 66th Regular Convention held
35 in Milwaukee, amended the Bylaws to provide opportunity for an accuser to appeal to
36 the President of the Synod if the District President does not suspend a member of
37 Synod; and
38

39 **WHEREAS**, the original Resolution proposing the Bylaw amendment was never
40 adopted by the 66th Regular Convention and was replaced by Resolution 12-14; and
41

42 **WHEREAS**, the adopted Resolution 12-14 stated the expectation that the Council of
43 Presidents would be included in subsequent discussions; and
44

45 **WHEREAS**, there was no consensus among the Council of Presidents, and in fact,
46 there was significant disagreement among the Council of Presidents’ members; and
47



48 **WHEREAS**, the Synod’s Board of Directors approved Bylaw 2.14.5 without consultation
49 or conversation with the Council of Presidents irrespective of Resolution 12-14; and

50
51 **WHEREAS**, Bylaw 2.14.5 is in direct conflict with the Constitution of the Synod, Article
52 XI.B.1; and

53
54 **WHEREAS**, permitting an appeal of an accusation or complaint against a member of the
55 Synod after a District President has terminated the matter undermines the ecclesiastical
56 supervision of the District President, tends to centralize authority for ecclesiastical
57 supervision in the President of the Synod, and requires the accused to defend
58 him/herself twice (first, before their District President, and second, before the President
59 of Synod), thus placing the accused in double jeopardy; and

60
61 **WHEREAS**, the necessity of the accused potentially having to defend more than once
62 costs an immense amount of time, energy, emotion, and money – resources that are
63 best expended upon mission and ministry opportunities; and

64
65 **WHEREAS**, misuse of an appeal by an accuser to the President of the Synod, at best,
66 might be described as mischief and, at worst, described as harassment, defaming the
67 good name of a member of the Synod and bearing false witness; therefore be it

68
69 **RESOLVED**, That the 2019 Convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod be
70 memorialized to remove Bylaw 2.14.5; and be it further

71
72 **RESOLVED**, That the 2019 Convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
73 reaffirm the prior method of ecclesiastical supervision that was adopted in the Bylaw
74 changes enacted by the 2004 Convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

75
76 Submitted by:
77 Bethel Lutheran Church, Claremont, NC, on December 3, 2017
78 Circuit Forum of Circuit 15 on December 2, 2017
79 Circuit Forum of Circuit 16 on November 12, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 05-18-05: TO REQUEST AN APPEAL OF NEW SYNODICAL BYLAW**
2 **REGARDING ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION OF CHURCH WORKERS**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, shepherding and supervising rostered church workers and member
5 congregations of the LCMS in matters pertaining to doctrine and life is vital not only to
6 their own health and wellbeing, but also to the health and wellbeing of the church at
7 large; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, over the history of the LCMS, different structures for shepherding and
10 supervising rostered church workers and member congregations of the LCMS in matters
11 of doctrine and life have been implemented; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, though the precise structure underlying such ecclesiastical supervision is
14 an adiaphoron, the constitutional changes reflected in Bylaw 2.14 of the May 2017
15 edition of the Synodical Handbook⁴ empower those inclined to arguments and
16 controversies (cf. 2 Tim 2:23) by robbing district presidents of their role as final arbiters
17 in doctrinal disputes and encouraging inter-district disputes that may only be resolved by
18 the Synodical President; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, district presidents, whose mandates are regional, are better informed about
21 the nuances of shepherding and supervising their charges than the Synodical President,
22 whose mandate is global; and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, the system of supervision in place since 2004⁵ has been not only effective
25 and efficient but has allowed each district president to exercise his role of being pastor
26 to those members of Synod entrusted to his care; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, the system now in place requires changes to the Synod constitution and
29 by-laws that have not been adequately explained or defended; therefore be it
30

31 **RESOLVED**, that the Southeastern District, in convention, appeal to Synod for a return
32 to the previous system of ecclesiastical supervision, empowering the district presidents
33 to make the final determinations regarding matters of both doctrine and life of synodical
34 members; and be it finally
35

36 **RESOLVED**, that such an appeal take place as soon as possible
37

38 Submitted by:
39 Circuit Forum of Circuit 8 on November 5, 2017

⁴ As written in response to 2016 Res. 12-14

⁵ See especially Bylaw 2.14 ("Expulsion of Congregations or Individuals from Membership in the Synod") of the LCMS Constitution, Bylaws, and Articles of Incorporation.



1 **OVERTURE 05-18-06: TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS (ACTING**
2 **AS THE BOARD OF ASSIGNMENTS) TO CREATE SYSTEM FOR THE**
3 **PLACEMENT OF INACTIVE—CANDIDATE MEMBERS**

4
5 **WHEREAS**, There is an increasing deficit in the number of graduating candidates
6 required to meet the requests of congregations and other calling entities to fill vacant
7 ordained and commissioned positions; and

8
9 **WHEREAS**, there is an extensive pool of both ordained and commissioned church
10 workers on Inactive—Candidate status, many of whom are desiring a call; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, there is currently no system in place for directly placing these educated,
13 examined, called, and ordained/commissioned candidates into congregations who are
14 seeking a candidate to fill a vacancy; now, therefore be it

15
16 **RESOLVED**, That, in accordance with Bylaw 3.10.1.41, the 2019 LCMS Convention
17 authorize the Council of Presidents (acting as the Board of Assignments) to develop a
18 system whereby any congregation or other calling entity that requests a graduating
19 candidate or other candidate from the field for a vacant position but does not receive a
20 candidate will then receive a list of eligible members on Inactive—Candidate status from
21 the LCMS roster from their District President for consideration for a call into that vacant
22 position; and be it further

23
24 **RESOLVED**, That this system shall then be presented to the LCMS Board of Directors
25 for final approval and for making any necessary changes to the Bylaws in accordance
26 with Bylaw 7.1.2;2 and be it further

27
28 **RESOLVED**, That this system shall not be used in lieu of the placement of candidates
29 from the seminaries, universities, and colleges of the synod, but rather that this system
30 may be used only after such placements have been made in an effort to fill any
31 remaining vacancies for which there were no graduating candidates available; and be it
32 further

33
34 **RESOLVED**, That, due to the urgency both of filling vacancies and of moving qualified
35 and capable rostered workers from Inactive—Candidate status to Active status, the
36 Council of Presidents (acting as the Board of Assignments) and the Board of Directors
37 shall have this system in place and ready to use following the spring 2020 placements;
38 and be it further

39
40 **RESOLVED**, That the 2017 Washington East Circuit Forum of the Southeastern District
41 of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod submit this overture to the 2019 Convention
42 of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for consideration and adoption; and be it
43 finally

44
45 **RESOLVED**, That the 2017 Washington East Circuit Forum of the Southeastern District
46 of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod submit this overture also to the 2018



47 Southeastern District Convention, memorializing both bodies to approve this overture
48 and likewise submit it to the 2019 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
49
50 Submitted by:
51 Circuit Forum of Circuit 7 on November 12, 2017



1 **OVERTURE 05-18-07: TO CORRECT DEFECTS OF SECTIONS 2.14-2.17, ENACTED**
2 **BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SYNOD**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, article 7 of the Bylaws of the Synod declares that amendments to the
5 Bylaws of the Synod are the responsibility of the synod in convention, except in
6 “exceptional circumstances”; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, no such ‘exceptional circumstances’ existed at the time that Resolution 12-
9 14 was passed (the Bylaws and practice in question had been in force for decades and
10 therefore the supposed unconstitutionality did not constitute an emergency); and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the adoption of Bylaws Sections 2.14-2.17 has the result that more than
13 17% of the Bylaws of the Synod (30 pages out of 173) were adopted and instituted by a
14 decision of the board of directors of the Synod, rather than an action of the synod in
15 convention (according the Foreword, page 10, 2016 Handbook); and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, article 1.2.1.a of the Bylaws of the Synod defines “Ecclesiastical
18 Supervision” as the “responsibility, primarily of the President of the Synod and the
19 district presidents ...;” and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the majority of members of the Hearing Panels of Sections 2.14.7.2 and
22 2.14.9 are determined by a blind draw of individuals who have not been elected to any
23 synodical office, thereby removing the decision of expulsion from the purview of the
24 President of the Synod and district presidents; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, the process defined in 2.14 provides that the President of the Synod can
27 serve as: judge in determination of facts, jury in determination of guilt, executioner in
28 establishing penalty, as well as accuser in the case of appealing the decisions of district
29 presidents and Hearing Panels; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, the process defined in 2.14 may require the accused to defend himself on
32 as many as four occasions *after* his district president has made a determination, even if
33 each of the intervening decisions and appeals have found no basis for expulsion; and
34

35 **WHEREAS**, the process defined in 2.14 assumes an eventual suspension of the
36 accused, in that Section 2.14.8.e includes a statement regarding the finality of the
37 decision of the Appeal Panel in cases where the Appeal Panel upholds the decision of
38 the Hearing Panel *for* suspension, but no statement regarding finality of the decision
39 where the Hearing Panel has been to *not* suspend; therefore be it
40

41 **RESOLVED**, That the SED petition the LCMS in convention to modify section 2.14-2.17
42 as follows:
43

44 **RESOLVED**, That the Board of Directors draft a proposal regarding the expulsion
45 issues of 2.14-2.17 that includes: an appeal to the Council of Presidents – requiring a ¾



46 majority to suspend or expel; an appeal to the convention requiring a 2/3 majority to
47 suspend or expel; and that the decision of the convention is final; and be it further
48

49 **RESOLVED**, That the proposed Bylaws stipulate that any two findings that exonerate
50 an accused (including the finding of the district president) shall, as an alternate to a
51 convention finding, constitute a final decision in the matter; and be it further
52

53 **RESOLVED**, That such a draft be presented to the 2022 synodical convention for
54 approval.
55

56 Submitted by:
57 Circuit Forum of Circuit 18 on September 30, 2017



1 **NE 06-18-01 – TO RATIFY SLATE OF CIRCUIT VISITORS**

2
3 WHEREAS, each circuit forum elected a pastor for the position of circuit visitor for the
4 coming triennium (2018-2021), therefore be it

5
6 *Resolved*, That the following slate of individuals elected at their respective circuit forum
7 to the position of circuit visitor be ratified and thereby constitute election by this
8 convention.

- 9
- | | | |
|----|-------------|---------------------------|
| 10 | Circuit 1 | Rev. David Nuss |
| 11 | Circuit 2 | Rev. James Banach |
| 12 | Circuit 3 | Rev. Charles Minetree |
| 13 | Circuit 4 | Rev. Dr. David Maack |
| 14 | Circuit 5 | Rev. Martin Schultheis |
| 15 | Circuit 6 | Rev. Christopher Harrison |
| 16 | Circuit 7 | Rev. Peter Schiebel |
| 17 | Circuit 8 | Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke |
| 18 | Circuit 9A | Rev. Gary Rueter |
| 19 | Circuit 9B | Rev. Wayne Lehrer |
| 20 | Circuit 10 | Rev. Dr. Matthew Bean |
| 21 | Circuit 11 | Rev. William Carr |
| 22 | Circuit 12 | Rev. Lawrence McReynolds |
| 23 | Circuit 13E | Rev. James Daub |
| 24 | Circuit 13W | Rev. Michael Merker |
| 25 | Circuit 14 | Rev. James McDaniels |
| 26 | Circuit 15 | Rev. Ron Wiese |
| 27 | Circuit 16 | Rev. Anton Lagoutine |
| 28 | Circuit 17 | Rev. David Ziehr |
| 29 | Circuit 18 | Rev. Ted Crandall |
| 30 | Circuit 19 | Rev. Dr. John Brunner |

