



Resolutions

Today's Business

February 25, 2022

- Replaced 1-05 with 1-05A
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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
5 **WHEREAS**, the Bible is the only infallible rule of faith and practice, and

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

10
11 **WHEREAS**, the promises of God concerning his will are manifold and include
12 especially unity of pure doctrine, a zeal for missions, steadfastness, and wisdom, and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, Martin Luther encouraged pastors and teachers to read the Bible twice
15 each year for the strengthening of their faith and an increase in zeal and knowledge
16 (Luther's Works, AE:54.165), and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, September 2022 marks the 500th anniversary of Luther's translation of
19 the New Testament from the original Greek into the language of the people, and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, the translation of the Bible into the languages of the people from the
22 original languages is one of the greatest gifts God gave the Church through the
23 Reformation, therefore be it

24
25 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District commemorate this most blessed
26 anniversary with a renewed focus on Bible reading, and be it further

27
28 **RESOLVED**, that all Christians also be encouraged to read the Bible with pious
29 diligence, and be it finally

30
31 **RESOLVED**, that the pastors, commissioned church workers, and lay leaders of the
32 district work together in their circuits to encourage one another in their Bible reading,
33 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 1-05A: TO AFFIRM THE CHURCH'S ESSENTIAL NATURE AND DUTY**
2 **TO CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD**

3 Referencing Overture 1-08
4

5 **OVERVIEW:** Throughout the months of the Coronavirus pandemic the Church has at
6 times been declared “non-essential” by the government, which created a hindrance to
7 gathering for public worship. This has, in some cases, allowed the government to
8 dictate when and how the Church calls upon the name of the Lord. This must be
9 addressed properly, lest an incorrect precedent be set for the future.
10

11 **WHEREAS,** to obtain saving faith God has given the Word and Sacraments and
12 instituted the Office of the Ministry to administer these gifts (Matthew 28:18-20; John
13 20:21-23; AC V.1-3; AC 14 XIV), and
14

15 **WHEREAS,** the Church is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is
16 purely preached and the holy Sacraments are administered according the Gospel (AC
17 VII.1), and God has commanded His people to gather to hear His Word and receive His
18 Sacraments (Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25), just
19 as the Lutheran Church confesses that the Sacrament of the Altar is celebrated every
20 Lord's day (Ap. XXIV.1), and
21

22 **WHEREAS,** this is the essential function which only the Church fulfills as God brings
23 salvation to the whole person, body and soul (Romans 5:1; Philippians 1:23; John
24 11:25-26; Philippians 3:21), and
25

26 **WHEREAS,** God has designed His creation with three estates—the Family, the
27 Church, and the Government, and
28

29 **WHEREAS,** these Three Estates remain (and continue their defining functions) until
30 the end of time, even during pandemic, famine, war, etc., and
31

32 **WHEREAS,** the authority of the Government in relation to the Fourth Commandment
33 is derived from the estate of the Family, “For all other authority is derived and
34 developed out of the authority of parents” (LC I.141), and
35

36 **WHEREAS,** the government is given by God to reward good and punish evil and
37 maintain order as defined by God's holy will (Romans 13; AC XVI.1-2), and deals with
38 bodies and goods, not spiritual matters (AC XXVIII.11), and
39

40 **WHEREAS,** the Church rightfully operates in God's right-hand rule through the
41 Gospel as she seeks to bring forgiveness and salvation through Christ's Means of
42 Grace, and
43

44 **WHEREAS,** the Government rightfully operates in God's left-hand rule, as it works
45 through the Law to maintain order and restrain sin, and



46 **WHEREAS**, the Church is not entirely independent of the Government's left-hand rule
47 as she deals with non-spiritual matters of operation (zoning laws, building permits,
48 occupancy permits, etc.), and

49
50 **WHEREAS**, the Government has no God given authority over the spiritual matters of
51 the Church's administration of the Means of Grace as they take place in the Divine
52 Service; therefore be it

53
54 **RESOLVED**, that we affirm the Church's essential nature, purpose, and ongoing
55 function in this world until Christ comes again in His glory, and be it further

56
57 **RESOLVED**, that we affirm the Church's and Family's status as having their God-
58 given role in caring for both body and soul, and be it further

59
60 **RESOLVED**, that we confess that the Government has no God given authority to place
61 restrictions on the Church's ability to celebrate the Divine Service, and on God's
62 people who wish to attend and receive the Means of Grace, and be it further

63
64 **RESOLVED**, that we affirm that in time of pandemic or public crisis the Church in
65 Christian freedom should seek to implement measures that serve the public good
66 while continuing to carry out her essential role of offering the Word and the
67 Sacraments in the Divine Service, and be it further

68
69 **RESOLVED**, that we exhort and encourage one another to confess boldly the essential
70 nature and function of the Church, especially in the event of future government
71 mandated shutdowns or restrictions to the celebration of the Divine Service, and be it
72 further

73
74 **RESOLVED**, that congregations are encouraged to reflect upon the public confession
75 made and the actions taken during the pandemic, understanding that our actions may
76 have either compromised our witness or put our neighbors in danger, and be it further

77
78 **RESOLVED**, that, if our confession or actions fell short of God's Word and will for His
79 Church (as we confess in Confession, "some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words
80 and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You [God]"), we trust in
81 God's forgiveness so that we can continue boldly to move forward in proclaiming the
82 Gospel, and be it further

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

86
87 **RESOLVED**, that we confess to the world that only the Gospel of the death and
88 resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ can provide final victory over sin, sickness, and
89 death; and be it finally



90 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the NID will take notice of all government
91 actions regarding public health and while seeking to live at peace with all men the
92 Church will implement those actions that in her own judgment do not interfere with
93 her God-given functions, as “we must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:2)



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.



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 ~~striketrough~~):

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

- 27 1. **Members of the Board of Regents for Concordia University Chicago**
28 **shall assume office upon the close of the district convention in**
29 **conformity with Synod Bylaw, 3.2.4.a.** All ~~these~~ **others** elected into
30 office at the Northern Illinois District Convention shall assume office as
31 of the first day of the third month, subsequent to the convention.
32 2. Induction into office of those elected at the Northern Illinois District
33 Convention shall be on a date ~~on or subsequent to the first day of the~~
34 ~~third month subsequent to the district convention.~~ **or dates chosen by**
35 **the newly elected President. It may be before or after the**
36 **assumption of duties.**
37 3. ~~The initial meeting of the boards and commissions shall ordinarily be~~
38 ~~held in association with the induction and shall begin with a combined~~
39 ~~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 ~~striketrough~~):

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
4

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
7

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
14

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
18

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
26

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
31

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
36

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:
40



- 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 3-03A:** 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**, the Church is called to confess clearly and boldly Biblical Truth,
21 repudiating and confessing unscriptural falsehoods, even when such confession is
22 unpopular before the world, and

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

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

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

33 **WHEREAS**, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandments are to love God and love
34 your neighbor (Mark 12:30-31); and Jesus illustrates for his disciples that they are to
35 treat all persons as neighbor (Luke 10:29-37); and Paul exhorts us to show the love of
36 Christ as we "bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2); and 'He has told you, O
37 man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love
38 kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?' (Micah 6:8) and Martin Luther, in his
39 explanations of the fifth and seventh commandments, extolls us to show that love as



40 we care for our neighbors as we support them in their needs, well-being, income, and
41 property; therefore be it

42 **RESOLVED**, that we as the Northern Illinois District affirm the importance of
43 discussion and study of sensitive issues, including race relations, through District
44 sponsored forums, Circuit led conversations and Bible studies, and be it further

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

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

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

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

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

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

66

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



1 **OMNIBUS A:**

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

5

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

8

9 **OMNIBUS B:**

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

12

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

16

