



Section V

Overtures

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT
2022 Convention
FLOOR COMMITTEE I**

I. WORD

Ordained Ministers

Rev. Paul Mumme (Chair) St. John, 26555 Brickville Rd., Sycamore, IL 60178-8602; Cell: (815) 585-3699; pastormumme@stjohnsycamore.org

Rev. Jonathan Petzold (Vice-Chair) Trinity, 405 Rush St., Roselle, IL 60172-2490; Cell: (734) 657-0841; petzoldj@trinityroselle.com

Commissioned Ministers

Dr. David Rogner CUC, 7400 August St. River Forest, IL 60305-1402; Work: (708) 524-3364; david.rogner@cuchicago.edu

Deac. Sarah Gaffney Zion, 11456 N 11000E Rd., Grant Park, IL 60940-5067; Cell: (708) 785-8048; sgaffney1@ymail.com

Lay Delegates

Mr. Jeff Heller (member of St. Andrew, Park Ridge) 1124 Tyrell Ave, Park Ridge, IL 60068-1647; Cell: (847) 343-1661; jsheller1966@yahoo.com

Mr. Timothy Bishop (member of Immanuel, East Dundee) 1720 Riverwood Dr., Algonquin, IL 60102-3797; Cell: (224) 239-0475; tebishop4288@hotmail.com

Advisory

Rev. Cory Estby (First Vice-President) Zion, 11456 N. 11000E Rd., Grant Park, IL 60940-5067; Cell: (815) 258-0537; pastorestby@yahoo.com

Staff

Rev. Kris Whitby, kris.whitby@nidlcms.org

Deac. Lori Trinche, lori.trinche@nidlcms.org



**NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT
2022 Convention
FLOOR COMMITTEE II**

II. WELLNESS

Ordained Ministers

Rev. Michael Gudgel (Chair) St. Matthew, 66 Timberline Dr., Lemont, IL 60439-3835; Cell: (708) 253-5761; michael.gudgel@gmail.com

Rev. Matthew Troester (Vice-Chair) St. Paul, 6201 Vollmer Rd., Matteson, IL 60443-1062; Cell: (708) 772-3685; rtroester@stpaulsonline.org

Commissioned Ministers

Ms. Nicolette Hett (DCE) Lord of Glory Lutheran Church, 607 W Belvidere Rd, Grayslake, IL 60030-4134; Cell: (507) 259-3476; dce@lordofglory.org

Ms. Erica Davies (DCE) Trinity Lutheran Church, 405 Rush St., Roselle, IL 60172-2228; Cell: (920) 636-6559; daviese@trinityroselle.com

Lay Delegates

Mr. Daniel Sedory (member of Gloria Dei, Chicago) 15040 S Kilpatrick Ave., Chicago, IL 60632-4941; Cell: (773) 988-6704; warrior254@juno.com

Mr. Steve Baker (member of Zion, Chebanse) 3009 W 7000S Rd., Chebanse, IL 60922-5100; Cell: (815) 351-8163; sbaker68@yahoo.com

Advisory

Rev. Michael Brown (Third Vice-President) St. Matthew, 720 Dundee Ave., Barrington, IL 60010-4255; Cell: (224) 707-2525;
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Staff

Joe Willmann, joe.willmann@lcef.org

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**NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT
2022 Convention
FLOOR COMMITTEE III**

III. WITNESS

Ordained Ministers

Rev. James Buckman (Chair) North Shore/Faith, 680 W. Deerpath, Lake Forest, IL 60045-1611; Cell: (417) 844-6989; jbuckman007@cs.com

Rev. David Andermann (Vice-Chair) Christ Our Savior, 2035 II Route 26, Dixon, IL 61021-9764; Cell: (815) 499-9801; revdja@gmail.com

Commissioned Ministers

Mr. John Meulendyke (Principal) Immanuel Lutheran School, 300 S Pathway Ct., Crystal Lake, IL 60014; Cell: (414) 393-7690; jmeulendyke@immanuelcl.org

Deac. Betsy Karkan CUC, 7400 August St., River Forest, IL 60305-1402; Work: (708) 209-3502; Betsy.Karkan@cuchicago.edu

Lay Delegates

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Mr. Jeffrey Studer (member of St. Mark's, St. Charles) 1480 Allen Ln., St. Charles, IL 60174-2365; Home: (630) 513-8289; seepsalm20.7@gmail.com

Advisory

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Staff

Rev. John Prohl, john.prohl@nidlcms.org

Rev. Dr. Tom Johnson, tom.johnson@nidlcms.org



**NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT
2022 Convention
FLOOR COMMITTEE IV**

IV. ELECTIONS

Ordained Ministers

Rev. Dr. Eric Kennaugh (Chair) Immanuel Lutheran Church, 950 Hart Rd.,
Batavia, IL 60510-9346; Cell: (630) 488-5391;
ekennaugh@immanuelbatavia.org

Rev. Julian LaMie (Vice-Chair) St. John Lutheran Church, 28054 S Yates Ave.,
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Advisory

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Northern Illinois District 2022 Convention

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1 **OVERTURE TO THE 60th CONVENTION**
 2 **OF**
 3 **THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT**
 4 **MARCH 11 – 12, 2022**

5
 6
 7 To the 60th Convention of
 8 The Northern Illinois District of
 9 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 10 March 11 – 12, 2022

11
 12 OVERTURE: 1-01

13
 14 **Subject:** TO ENCOURAGE BIBLE READING

15
 16 **WHEREAS,** The Bible is the only infallible rule of faith and practice, and

17 **WHEREAS,** God has promised through the prophet Isaiah that his word "shall not
 18 return empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the
 19 thing for which I sent it." and

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

22 **WHEREAS,** Martin Luther, Johann Gerhard, and many of our other forefathers in the
 23 faith encouraged pastors and teachers to read the Bible twice each year for the
 24 strengthening of their faith and an increase in zeal and knowledge, and

25 **WHEREAS,** This practice would require reading less than seven chapters each day,
 26 and many other very feasible Bible reading plans are out there, and

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

29 **WHEREAS,** The New Testament had not been translated from the original Greek into
 30 the languages of the people for over six centuries in the East and over a millennium in
 31 the West before this great work, and

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

35 **Resolved,** That the Northern Illinois District commemorate this most blessed
 36 anniversary with a renewed focus on Bible reading, and be it further

37 **Resolved,** That the pastors and other church workers of the district work together in
 38 their circuits to encourage one another in their Bible reading, and be it further



39 **Resolved,** That the laity also be encouraged to read the Bible with pious diligence.

40 Respectfully submitted,

41 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Walnut, IL

42 Signed, Carl Lee Von Holten, Chairperson

43 Signed, Juanita Von Holten



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 12 OVERTURE: 1-02

13
 14 **Subject:** TO ENCOURAGE ZEAL FOR BIBLE READING

15
 16 **WHEREAS,** The Bible is the only infallible rule of faith and practice, and

17 **WHEREAS,** God has promised through the prophet Isaiah that his word "shall not
 18 return empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the
 19 thing for which I sent it," and

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

22 **WHEREAS,** 1 Corinthians 4 and 11, 1 Thessalonians 1 and 2, 2 Thessalonians 3, 1
 23 John 1, Deuteronomy 4, and many other passages of Scripture encourage and praise
 24 the imitation of pious leaders, and

25 **WHEREAS,** Such examples are a great encouragement and motivation for zeal in
 26 reading God's Word, and

27 **WHEREAS,** The Northern Illinois District is greatly blessed by the Lord with most
 28 faithful and pious leaders who dearly love God's word and his Church, therefore be it

29 **Resolved,** That to provide such an example for imitation, the Northern Illinois District
 30 include the frequency and total number of times each individual has read the Bible on
 31 all biographies of candidates for elected offices, and be it further

32 **Resolved,** That we give thanks to God for the pious example of our district leaders
 33 and their diligent and godly love of Scripture with the singing of a doxology.

34 Respectfully submitted,

35 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Walnut, IL
 36 Signed, Carl Lee Von Holten, Chairperson
 37 Signed, Juanita Von Holten



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 12 OVERTURE: 1-03

13
 14 **Subject:** TO GIVE A CLEAR CONFESSION OF THE RESURRECTION IN OUR
 15 FUNERAL PRACTICES

16
 17 **WHEREAS**, in Luther's Small Catechism explanation of the First Article of the Creed,
 18 we confess, "I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me
 19 my body... "; we are called to preserve our bodies as living sacrifices; and there is no
 20 reason we would want to destroy willfully that which God has created in His image
 21 and given to us; and

22 **WHEREAS**, when Holy Scripture speaks of the burning of bodies by fire (a practice
 23 that historically, and currently, is observed in pagan societies), it does so in a negative
 24 context, including specific words of condemnation in Amos 2; and

25 **WHEREAS**, by contrast, the burial of the bodies of God's people is described as
 26 occurring with reverent care, as witnessed by Christ Himself whose body was anointed
 27 for burial; and many other examples; and

28 **WHEREAS**, neither cremation nor burial nor any other funeral practice has any
 29 impact on the salvation of the deceased, nor does it impact the bodily resurrection we
 30 confess in the Creed; nonetheless, the funeral service is the last rite given to each of
 31 us as members of the Body of Christ until we are transformed at the Last Day, and is
 32 a witness to the faith of the deceased; thus, we should strive in these as in all things
 33 to give a clear confession of the teaching of Holy Scripture, rather than use Christian
 34 liberty to minimize it; and

35 **WHEREAS**, for these reasons the Church has opposed cremation of bodies; our
 36 funeral rites speak of the committal of the body to the grave, and we are to consider
 37 the coffin as a bed in which the dead in Christ sleep until they reawaken at Christ's
 38 appearing; and

39 **WHEREAS**, at the present time some oppose the process of embalming for various
 40 reasons; although spoken of without condemnation in Genesis 50:2 (Israel) and



41 Genesis 50:26 (Joseph), nonetheless embalming is not necessary for a funeral service
 42 with the body present, which may be held with a closed casket, or promptly after
 43 death, without need for embalming, so that "embalming or cremation" is a false choice;
 44 and

45 **WHEREAS**, a funeral service with the body present is a vivid reminder of the wages of
 46 sin that we have all earned, yet simultaneously an opportunity for the proclamation of
 47 the Gospel and Christ's triumph over death and the grave in which the deceased
 48 shares through Holy Baptism; and

49 **WHEREAS**, in our modern culture that embraces youth and pleasure and rejects the
 50 concepts of sin and death, we should also take every opportunity to use funeral
 51 services to proclaim Law and Gospel: our sin, and resulting death, that requires
 52 Christ's vicarious atonement; and the victory we have in Christ: never to engage in
 53 eulogies, sentimentality, and other practices that distract from the theology of the
 54 Cross; and

55 **WHEREAS**, the process of cremation requires the burning of the flesh and the
 56 physical crushing of bones to create "ashes" and although many treat the resulting
 57 remains in a dignified manner and do inter them, it is also the case that some engage
 58 in careless or even frivolous practices in the handling thereof, such as scattering to
 59 the heedless winds to achieve "oneness with nature," or at a favorite location of the
 60 deceased such as Disneyland, which is not the case with physical burials; and

61 **WHEREAS**, for all these reasons, the Synod ought to teach that the best practice
 62 regarding last rites is a physical burial of the body, because that gives the clearest
 63 confession of our faith regarding our body as a creation of God, our death as the
 64 wages of sin, and our sure and certain hope of our bodily resurrection through
 65 Christ's own death and resurrection; therefore be it:

66 **Resolved**, That the Northern Illinois District submit an overture to the Synod in
 67 convention to direct the CTCR, by July 1, 2023, to issue a final report affirming the
 68 burial of the body as the best practice for last rites, not as a burden of conscience but
 69 as a joyful confession of the eternal life and bodily resurrection won for us by Christ,
 70 while acknowledging God's mercy for those situations where such is not possible, e.g.,
 71 a plane crash or loss at sea, or the like; and that our seminaries and official
 72 publications teach likewise.

73 Respectfully Submitted by,

74 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL

75 Signed, Mark O. Stern, Chairman

76 Signed, Josh Hanson, Secretary



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 12 OVERTURE: 1-04

13
 14 **Subject:** TO ENCOURAGE PROPER PASTORAL OVERSIGHT IN ADMINISTRATION OF
 15 LORD'S SUPPER THROUGH VISITATION OF ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISORS

16
 17 **WHEREAS,** The Synod has consistently encouraged its pastors and congregations to
 18 exercise communion practices which are faithful to the Holy Scripture and the
 19 Lutheran Confessions; and

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

23 **WHEREAS,** St. Paul admonishes the Corinthians against eating the Lord's Supper
 24 with divisions among them (1 Cor. 2 11:17-18); and

25 **WHEREAS,** The Synod in convention has commended for study the 1999 report of the
 26 Commission on Theology and Church Relations, Admission to the Lord's Supper:
 27 Basics of Biblical and Confessional Teaching (St. Louis: The Lutheran Church—
 28 Missouri Synod, 1999); and

29 **WHEREAS,** Concerns about communion practice still come before district and Synod
 30 conventions for resolution; and

31 **WHEREAS,** The practice of inviting all baptized believers who merely affirm the real
 32 presence, while neglecting to address the necessity of unity of confession, is not
 33 consistent with the biblical and confessional position of the Synod; and

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

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



40 **WHEREAS**, In the Bylaws of the Synod it states that the district president is to "seek
41 to bring about to the greatest possible degree the achievement of the Synod's
42 objectives as expressed in Article III of its Constitution" (Bylaw 4.4.4[b]); and

43 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the Synod states that the district president is to "[s]ee
44 to it that all resolutions of the Synod which concern the districts are made known to
45 the districts and are carried out by them." (Constitution Article XII 9 A; along with
46 Bylaw 1.3.6); and

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

50 **WHEREAS**, The 2013 convention passed Resolution 4-10, "To Encourage Proper
51 Oversight in the Administration of Lord's Supper by Visitation from Ecclesiastical
52 Supervisors"; therefore be it

53 **Resolved**, That during this next triennium the district president (or his representative)
54 address each district congregation's administration of the Lord's Supper in his official
55 visitations, spending time in the Word of God and studying the Synod's position on
56 "closed communion"; and be it further

57 **Resolved**, That those practices which are not in harmony with the Scriptures and the
58 Lutheran Confessions be addressed fraternally and evangelically with the goal of
59 bringing about harmony and consistent practice especially as that applies to the
60 Lord's Supper; and be it further

61 **Resolved**, That the district president shall report in writing the progress of his
62 visitation regarding proper communion practices to the district no less than 90 days
63 before the 2024 district convention; and be it finally

64 **Resolved**, That the President of the Synod be exhorted to see that the district
65 presidents apply themselves faithfully to this task in accord with his responsibility as
66 detailed in Constitution Article XI B, especially paragraphs 2, 3, and 4; and that in
67 accord with Const. Art. XII 9 A-B, each district president shall report the progress of
68 this visitation regarding proper communion practices to the President of the Synod no
69 less than 90 days before the 2025 convention so that the President of the Synod can
70 report regarding this visitation resolution at that convention.

71 Respectfully Submitted by,

72 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL

73 Signed, Mark O. Stern, Chairman

74 Signed, Josh Hanson, Secretary



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 12 OVERTURE: 1-05

13
 14 **Subject:** TO REJOICE IN THE PROCLAMATION OF GOD’S WORD BY HIS CALLED
 15 AND ORDAINED SERVANTS

16
 17 **WHEREAS**, we come to the Divine Service not to serve, but to be served by God
 18 through His called and ordained servants, as we confess our sins, hear His words of
 19 Absolution spoken by the pastor in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus
 20 Christ, hear Law and Gospel rightly divided, and receive the sacrament of Christ's
 21 body and blood; and

22
 23 **WHEREAS**, when we hear the words of forgiveness of our sins spoken by the pastor at
 24 Christ's command, we are to rejoice and to believe them as surely and certainly as if
 25 spoken by Christ Himself; and

26
 27 **WHEREAS**, in the orientation of the service the words spoken from the altar, pulpit,
 28 and lectern are the words of God spoken for our benefit, whereas the congregation
 29 faces the altar and speaks back the words God has said to us; and

30
 31 **WHEREAS**, it is a great blessing for all those in the congregation to hear the Word of
 32 God spoken by our pastors, who are our servants (Mark 9:35), and it is meet, right,
 33 and salutary that we should accept their service to us; and

34
 35 **WHEREAS**, faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17), and the use of lay readers for
 36 Scripture lessons denies those persons the comfort and benefit of hearing the Word of
 37 God spoken directly to and for them by their pastors; and

38
 39 **WHEREAS**, no one should publicly preach and teach in the church without a rightly
 40 ordered call (AC XIV); there can be no clearer public teaching of the Word of God than
 41 reading it in the Divine Service; and thus the use of lay readers can confuse the



42 vocations of the called and ordained pastor as servant of the Word, and of the
43 congregation as hearers of the Word; and

44
45 **WHEREAS**, the use of lay readers can be understood wrongly as an individual
46 "participating" in the conduct of the service, as though greater meaning, benefit, or
47 stature is thereby obtained (and by implication, that those who do not read are taking
48 a lesser role), and we ought not burden mis-trained consciences in such manner, in
49 contrast to the right understanding that the whole congregation benefits on an equal
50 basis as it is served by the pastor; and

51
52 **WHEREAS**, as a practical matter the pastor is best suited to read the text without
53 disruption or delay to the flow of the service, and with due emphasis on the
54 pronunciation and salient points of the text, particularly if it forms a portion of the
55 sermon text; therefore be it

56
57 **Resolved**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention give thanks and rejoice in
58 the proclamation of the Word by God's called and ordained servants; and be it further
59

60 **Resolved**, That the District President disseminate appropriate resources throughout
61 the District to assist pastors in catechizing their congregations to understand the
62 great blessing of the role of the pastor in the Divine Service, so that rather than giving
63 offense, laity who have been accustomed to read Scripture lessons may rather
64 understand and appreciate the service of the pastor for their benefit, and hear with
65 great joy God's Word as it is read for them; and be it further

66
67 **Resolved**, That the District President and Circuit Visitors give emphasis in their
68 visitations of all congregations in the next triennium to a right understanding of the
69 role of the congregation in the Divine Service and other worship services, specifically
70 toward following the practice of having Holy Scripture read by the pastor in all worship
71 services, that all congregations may walk together in doctrine and practice; and be it
72 further

73
74 **Resolved**, That the Northern Illinois District submit this overture to the Synod for
75 appropriate action toward following the practice of having Holy Scripture read by the
76 pastor in all worship services, that all Synod congregations may walk together in
77 doctrine and practice.

78
79 Respectfully Submitted by,

80 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL
81 Signed, Mark O. Stern, Chairman
82 Signed, Josh Hanson, Secretary



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13 OVERTURE: 1-06
14

15 **Subject:** ADOPTION OF “WORD, WELLNESS, WITNESS” AS THE NORTHERN
16 ILLINOIS DISTRICT’S MINISTRY FOCUS
17

18 **WHEREAS,** Our Lord has given us His inspired Word to make us wise for
19 salvation through faith in Christ Jesus and to equip us for every good work [II
20 Timothy 3:14-17], and
21

22 **WHEREAS,** Our Lord has blessed us in wellness, giving us our very lives
23 and richly and daily providing us with all we need to support this body and life.
24 [Luther’s Small Catechism, The Creed, The First Article Explanation], and
25

26 **WHEREAS,** Our Lord has called us to witness the gift of His grace to the
27 world, proclaiming the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His
28 marvelous light. [I Peter 2:9], and
29

30 **WHEREAS,** The Northern Illinois District previously has selected a
31 thematic focus for our service to Christ which has reflected our values and set
32 general direction for our work as synod in this place, and
33

34 **WHEREAS,** Prayerful consideration has been given by leaders in our
35 district to utilize the theme of “Word, Wellness, Witness” at this time, including
36 at the Vision Workshops held throughout our district with participants from
37 nearly half of our congregations, therefore be it
38

39 **Resolved,** That The Northern Illinois District adopt the theme of “Word,
40 Wellness, Witness,” for its work together, and be it further
41

42 **Resolved,** That this theme be commended to the congregations, schools and
43 ministries of The Northern Illinois District for its use in shaping their own local
44 ministries, and be it finally
45



46 **Resolved,** That we continue to lift up our prayers to our Savior, asking
47 Him to bless our service together under “Word, Wellness, Witness” with the fruit of
48 faith, according to His will.

49

50 Respectfully Submitted,

51 Northern Illinois District Board of Directors

52 Signed, Allan R. Buss, Chairperson

53 Signed, James A. Kellerman, Secretary



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 12 OVERTURE: 1-07

13
 14 **Subject:** TO CLARIFY REQUIREMENTS FOR ALTAR AND PULPIT FELLOWSHIP WITH
 15 PARTNER CHURCHES

16
 17 **WHEREAS**, Christians and their church bodies around the world, and even in our
 18 own country, that seek to confess the truth of God's Word in opposition to the
 19 narrative of the wicked and pagan elite culture are facing server persecution; and

20 **WHEREAS**, it is a necessary and appropriate response to such persecution that The
 21 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, its clergy, and the members of its congregations
 22 speak out boldly against such persecution, stand with the suffering, and provide such
 23 financial, legal, and other succor and external cooperation as is within our means;

24 **WHEREAS**, it is necessary and appropriate response to such persecution that The
 25 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, its clergy, and the members of its congregation
 26 support the right of Christians and their church bodies, worldwide, to worship and to
 27 confess that truth of God's Word without fear of punishment, cancellation,
 28 imprisonment, or even death; and

29 **WHEREAS**, it is not a necessary or appropriate response to such persecution that The
 30 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod should ignore or gloss over significant differences
 31 of doctrine and practice that sadly exist within the Church catholic and which prevent
 32 us from sharing altar and pulpit fellowship with all church bodies; and

33 **WHEREAS**, it is not a necessary or appropriate response to such persecution that
 34 members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or of its congregations should take
 35 part in the services or sacramental rites of heterodox congregations or of
 36 congregations of mixed confession for purposes of showing solidarity with those who
 37 are suffering persecution; and

38 **WHEREAS**, Altar and pulpit fellowship, as understood in The Lutheran Church—
 39 Missouri Synod "allows the pastors of one church to preach and celebrate Holy
 40 Communion in the church of another. Similarly, when altar and pulpit fellowship



41 exists the laity of one church may receive Holy Communion from the other church's
 42 pastors. Churches in altar and pulpit fellowship share all spiritual things including a
 43 joint responsibility in maintaining a common confession of faith.”; and

44 **WHEREAS**, A joint responsibility in maintaining a common confession of faith
 45 includes avoiding altar and pulpit fellowship with churches that subscribe to mixed
 46 and inconsistent confessions; and

47 **WHEREAS**, as a condition of acquiring and holding membership in the Synod, as
 48 stated in Article VI, section 2 of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
 49 Synod, every congregation and minister must agree to:

50 Renunciation of unionism and syncretism of every description, such as:

- 51 a. Serving congregations of mixed confession, as such, by ministers of the church;
- 52 b. Taking part in the services and sacramental rites of heterodox congregations or of
- 53 congregations of mixed confession;
- 54 c. Participating in heterodox tract and missionary activities; and

55 **WHEREAS**, the spiritual basis for this requirement is expounded in the Brief
 56 Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod:

57 28. On Church-Fellowship. – Since God ordained that His Word only, without the
 58 admixture of human doctrine, be taught and believe in the Christian Church. 1 Pet.
 59 4:11; John 8:31,32; 1 Tim. 6:3,4, all Christians are required by God to discriminate
 60 between orthodox and heterodox church-bodies, and, in case they have strayed into
 61 heterodox church-bodies, to leave them. Rom. 16:17. We repudiate unionism, that is,
 62 church-fellowship with adherents of false doctrine, as disobedience to God’s
 63 command, as causing divisions in the Church, Rom. 16:17; 2 John 9,10, and as
 64 involving the constant danger of losing the Word of God entirely, 2 Tim. 2:17-21.; and

65 **WHEREAS**, confusion has arisen because the Synod has declared altar and pulpit
 66 fellowship with various partner church bodies that in turn share altar and pulpit
 67 fellowship with other church bodies that are heterodox or apostate, including through
 68 membership in the Lutheran World Federation (2019 Convention Resolution 5-07);
 69 and

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

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



79 **WHEREAS**, as an example of the triangular fellowship problem, the Evangelical
 80 Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland ("ELMDOF") is in altar and pulpit fellowship with
 81 the Synod; however, the ELMDOF also declares itself to be in fellowship; with the
 82 Swedish Provincial Mission, which in turn asserts that it is part of the (apostate)
 83 Church of Sweden; and

84 **WHEREAS**, given such formal affiliations by ELMDOF, a congregation of the ELMDOF
 85 might on one Sunday be served by a pastor of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,
 86 and on the next Sunday be served by a pastor of the Church of Sweden; and

87 **WHEREAS**, this possibility is incoherent, for as the late Dr. Kurt Marquart wrote,
 88 "Like the church herself, the fellowship of the church is one and indivisible:
 89 *communio una est.*"; and

90 **WHEREAS**, "One who practices church fellowship with those who in their doctrine
 91 depart from God's Word becomes guilty of their sin. 2 John 11 states explicitly: 'He
 92 that biddeth him [who does not bring the doctrine of Christ] Godspeed is partaker of
 93 his evil deeds.'"; and

94 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 3.9.5.2.2(c) offers a solution:

95 When a small, formative, emerging confessional Lutheran church body (identified as
 96 such by the President of the Synod as chief ecumenical officer) requests recognition of
 97 altar and pulpit fellowship with the Synod, after consultation with the Presidium and
 98 approval by the commission [on Theology and Church Relations], such recognition
 99 may be declared by the President of the Synod subject to the endorsement of the
 100 subsequent Synod convention.; and

101 **WHEREAS**, if and to the extent church bodies (such as the Swedish Provincial
 102 Mission) that are in altar and pulpit fellowship with our partner churches are in
 103 doctrinal agreement on what the bible and Book of Concord require for church
 104 fellowship, namely "agreement on the pure preaching of the gospel and the right
 105 administration of the Sacraments." Augsburg Confession IV; and "on the gospel and
 106 all its articles," Formula of Concord SD X.31 and otherwise meet the Scriptural
 107 requirements for church fellowship, the President of Synod out to recognize such
 108 fellowship under Synod Bylaw 3.9.5.2.2 (c); and

109 **WHEREAS**, if our partner churches are in altar and pulpit fellowship with church
 110 bodies that do not qualify under Synod Bylaw 3.9.5.2.2. and such matter cannot be
 111 resolved through fraternal consultations, then it must be that such fellowship does
 112 not truly exist; therefore be it

113 **Resolved**, That this District present this Resolution as an overture to the 2023 Synod
 114 Convention directing that the President of the Synod:

115 identify, for each of the Synod's partner churches, any church bodies ("Other Church
 116 Bodies") sharing altar and pulpit fellowship with such partner church but not with the
 117 Synod; determine whether fellowship exists with each such Other Church Body;



118 if fellowship exists, seek to bring such Other Church Body into altar and pulpit
119 fellowship with the Synod, following the appropriate protocols under Synod Bylaw
120 3.9.5.2.2;

121 if fellowship does not exist, use continuous and diligent fraternal efforts to bring about
122 mutual agreement toward a declaration of fellowship; and

123 at the 2026 Synod Convention, bring forward resolutions either affirming fellowship
124 with each such Other Church Body, or suspending fellowship with any partner church
125 remaining in fellowship with an Other Church Body with which altar and pulpit
126 fellowship has not yet been established; and be it finally,

127 **Resolved,** That this District present this Resolution as an overture to the 2023 Synod
128 Convention to modify the Synod Bylaws to provide that a condition to the declaration
129 of altar and pulpit fellowship with a church body be that such body is only in altar
130 and pulpit fellowship with church bodies with which the Synod is also in fellowship.

131 Respectfully Submitted by,

132 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL
133 Signed, Mark O. Stern, Chairman
134 Signed, Josh Hanson, Secretary



1 **OVERTURE TO THE 60th CONVENTION**
 2 **OF**
 3 **THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT**
 4 **MARCH 11 – 12, 2022**

5
 6
 7 To the 60th Convention of
 8 The Northern Illinois District of
 9 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 10 March 11 – 12, 2022

11
 12 OVERTURE: 1-08 (LATE)

13
 14 **Subject:** TO AFFIRM THE CHURCH’S ESSENTIAL NATURE AND DUTY TO CALL
 15 UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD

16
 17 Overview: Throughout the months of the pandemic, the Church has been relegated to
 18 secondary status under the rule of the government. The government has claimed
 19 authority over the Church’s worship and, misapplying the Fourth Commandment, the
 20 Church has allowed the Government to dictate when and how the Church call upon
 21 the name of the Lord. This must be addressed properly to rectify the past, lest an
 22 incorrect precedent be set for the future.

23
 24 **WHEREAS**, God has designed His creation with three estates – the Family, the
 25 Church, and Government, and

26
 27 **WHEREAS**, these Three Estates remain (and continue their defining functions) until
 28 the end of time, even during pandemic, famine, war, etc., and

29
 30 **WHEREAS**, The government is given by God to reward good and punish evil, as
 31 defined by God’s holy will (Romans 13), and

32
 33 **WHEREAS**, within the course of the Coronavirus pandemic, “good and evil” have not
 34 been carefully defined in agreement with God’s holy will, and various state
 35 governments declared the Church’s identifying and central function of gathering at the
 36 altar of God to call upon the name of the Lord to be “non-essential,” and

37
 38 **WHEREAS**, the divinely called pastors and undershepherds of Christ are as essential
 39 to the spiritual care of the individual as is a physician to the physical care of the
 40 individual, and

41



42 **WHEREAS**, the Fourth Commandment may have been misapplied by the Church to
 43 justify various state governments' claims (upheld by federal courts) that the
 44 government could close the doors of the Church, require the omission of in-person
 45 worship, singing, and the giving of the Sacraments, etc., and

46
 47 **WHEREAS**, the true exposition of the Fourth Commandment requires it to be
 48 interpreted in service of the First Commandment – that God alone is God and alone
 49 governs the kingdom of the Right, not by the authority of government, but by the Word
 50 and Sacraments; and the Fourth Commandment is to be interpreted in service of the
 51 entire First Table of the Law, including the Second and Third commandments to call
 52 upon the name of the Lord in the day of trouble and to not despise preaching and His
 53 Word, and

54
 55 **WHEREAS**, the Fourth Commandment also maintains the Family as an equal estate,
 56 as our Confessions state, “In this commandment belongs a further statement about all
 57 kinds of obedience to persons in authority who have to command and to govern. For
 58 all authority flows and is born from the authority of parents. So all whom we call
 59 ‘masters’ are in the place of parents and must get their power and authority to govern
 60 from them” (LC I, 141-142) and

61
 62 **WHEREAS**, the misuse of AC XXVIII, 14 to say that the government has been given
 63 absolute authority over the body negates both the role of father to raise up and protect
 64 his household and the role of the pastor to provide Word and Sacrament not just to a
 65 soul, but to ears, eyes and mouth, and

66
 67 **WHEREAS**, in teaching of the End Times (which have been in effect since His death,
 68 resurrection and ascension) and in prophesying wars, rumors of wars, famines,
 69 plagues, and the like (Matthew 24, Luke 21), Christ never said the Church should – in
 70 times of public danger – close its doors and forbid the Word and Sacrament to those
 71 Christians who desire such life-giving gifts of God, therefore be it

72
 73 **Resolved**, That we affirm the Church's essential nature, purpose, and ongoing
 74 function in this world until Christ comes again in His glory, and be it further

75
 76 **Resolved**, That we affirm the Church's and Family's status, equal to the Government,
 77 as having their God-given role in caring for both body and soul, and be it further

78
 79 **Resolved**, That, as the Church is essential, the pastor who serves her is also essential
 80 as he is charged by God to be ‘steward of the mysteries’ in administering Word and
 81 Sacrament, and be it further

82



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

88
 89 **Resolved**, that we repent for not clearly and boldly confessing the Church to be a co-
 90 equal estate to the Government and Family, both which continued their functions
 91 during the pandemic, and be it further

92
 93 **Resolved**, that we repent for justifying our actions in cases where we may have
 94 misapplied the Fourth Commandment and Romans 13, and be it further

95
 96 **Resolved**, That we affirm that individual congregations may – in Christian freedom –
 97 choose to close their doors in times of public crisis, while other congregations of the
 98 Church, even in defiance of government orders, may choose to keep their doors open
 99 to serve God’s people without sinning against the Fourth Commandment and with the
 100 support and defense of the church body and her leaders, and be it further

101
 102 **Resolved**, that we exhort and encourage one another to confess boldly the essential
 103 nature and function of the Church, especially in the event of and at the time of
 104 another government-mandated closure of congregations, and, be it finally

105
 106 **Resolved**, that this assembly stand and sing together LSB 797, “Praise the Almighty,”
 107 verses 1-3 (time permitting, verses 4-5):

108
 109 Praise the Almighty, my soul, adore Him!
 110 Yes, I will laud Him until death:
 111 With songs and anthems I come before Him
 112 As long as He allows me breath.
 113 From Him my life and all things came;
 114 Bless, O my soul, His holy name.
 115 Alleluia, alleluia!
 116 Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal;
 117 Earthborn they are and soon decay.
 118 Vain are their counsels at life’s last portal,
 119 When the dark grave engulfs its prey.
 120 Since mortals can no help afford,
 121 Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
 122 Alleluia, alleluia!
 123 Blessed, oh, blessed are they forever
 124 Whose help is from the Lord Most High,



125 Whom from salvation can nothing sever,
126 And who in hope to Christ draw nigh.
127 To all who trust in Him, our Lord
128 Will aid and counsel now afford.
129 Alleluia, alleluia!
130
131 Respectfully submitted,
132
133 The Sister Congregations of Circuit N3



1 **OVERTURE TO THE 60th CONVENTION**
 2 **OF**
 3 **THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT**
 4 **MARCH 11 – 12, 2022**

5
 6
 7 To the 60th Convention of
 8 The Northern Illinois District of
 9 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 10 March 11 – 12, 2022

11
 12 OVERTURE: 2-01

13
 14 **Subject:** TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE’S OFFERINGS GIVEN TO CONCORDIA
 15 UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS

16
 17 **WHEREAS**, since the founding of the Addison Teachers Seminary (now, Concordia
 18 University Chicago) in 1864, the people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 19 have generously supported the Synod's collegiate and university institutions of higher
 20 education with their donations and bequests; and

21
 22 **WHEREAS**, as a result of the closure of Concordia University Portland, endowment
 23 funds that were donated to that school by LCMS congregations and their members are
 24 currently at risk; they are subject to potential claims of creditors and to potential
 25 claims by the Oregon Department of Justice (according to media reports); in each
 26 case, such claims could result in the funds being diverted from their intended
 27 purpose - support for Lutheran higher education - and diverted to pay creditors,
 28 settle lawsuits and pay legal fees, and/or be seized by the state; and

29
 30 **WHEREAS**, it would be tragic for millions of dollars in endowment funds given by
 31 God's people to be lost or wasted if other CUS schools encounter financial difficulties;
 32 and

33
 34 **WHEREAS**, the Synod has formed The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation
 35 to act as an independent fiduciary and trust company, and the primary provider of
 36 charitable expertise for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; the Foundation has
 37 decades of charitable expertise, helping to ensure that families are provided for and
 38 beloved ministries are supported; the LCMS Foundation serves our Lord and our
 39 Church by providing trained professionals to assist individuals and ministry
 40 congregations in practicing Biblical, Christ-centered stewardship; and

41



42 **WHEREAS**, the Foundation currently holds and manages numerous endowments for
 43 the benefit of the CUS schools; the income is distributed to the intended beneficiary
 44 institutions, but the principal is invested and safeguarded by the Foundation in trust,
 45 both protected from claims of creditors of the institutions and preserved for use in
 46 accordance with the direction of the original donors; and

47

48 **WHEREAS**, transferring all CUS endowment funds to the LCMS Foundation would
 49 result in optimal stewardship by:

50

51 Ensuring that such funds remain available to the CUS schools as intended by the
 52 donors, protecting the donor's intentions with no change in the distribution of funds
 53 so long as the CUS schools remain in operation and part of Synod;

54

55 Reducing the overhead costs of managing funds, and spreading risk among a broader
 56 investment base, meaning a higher return on investment for the schools; and

57

58 Safeguarding such funds from creditors and/or state seizure if a school were to
 59 become insolvent and/or leave affiliation with the Synod; be it therefore

60

61 **Resolved**, That the Northern Illinois District submit an overture to the Synod in
 62 convention to direct all CUS schools to transfer their endowment funds, whether held
 63 directly or indirectly, to the LCMS Foundation in trust, to be held consistent with the
 64 donors' intended purposes and distributed to such CUS schools consistent with
 65 current practices so long as the CUS schools operate as agencies of the Synod, and
 66 otherwise to be used for LCMS higher education, by December 31, 2022.

67

68 Respectfully Submitted by,

69 St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL

70 Signed, Mark O. Stern, Chairman

71 Signed, Josh Hanson, Secretary



1 **OVERTURE TO THE 60th CONVENTION**
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 4 **MARCH 11 – 12, 2022**

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 8 The Northern Illinois District of
 9 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 10 March 11 – 12, 2022

11
 12 OVERTURE: 2-02

13
 14 **Subject:** TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF REQUIRED MEETINGS OF THE DISTRICT
 15 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

16
 17 **Rationale:** At present the Board of Directors is required to meet at least six times a
 18 year (Bylaw I.E.1), but all other committees and commissions are required to meet
 19 only four times a year (Bylaw I.F.4). This made sense for many decades when the
 20 budget process was long and laborious. Until roughly twenty years ago, the district
 21 had several boards, each of which negotiated their own budget with the Board of
 22 Directors; in addition, the district also directly subsidized over a dozen local missions
 23 directly. All of this required much time and effort to process, especially before today's
 24 sophisticated financial software became available. Typically, four of the six meetings of
 25 the Board of Directors were spent primarily on the budget process from September
 26 through January. The other two meetings (usually in March and June) handled
 27 general business. However, today there are no other boards beside the Board of
 28 Directors, and the district does not directly subsidize church plants anymore. This has
 29 made the budget process much simpler. Often now what is proposed in early fall is the
 30 same as what is adopted in January, with a handful of tweaks.

31
 32 Congregations and other organizations have found that it is better to have fewer, but
 33 more focused meetings. The business of the district could easily be handled in
 34 quarterly meetings. Furthermore, if some urgent item of business arises, special
 35 meetings can be easily called.

36
 37 Having fewer meetings might also encourage a greater variety of people to serve on the
 38 board. It is easier for people to take off four days from work a year rather than six,
 39 especially if they know that emergency meetings could be handled electronically on an
 40 evening. Therefore, be it

41



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

44

45 **I. ADMINISTRATION**

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

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

49

50 Respectfully submitted,

51

52 Northern Illinois District Board of Directors

53 Signed, Allan R. Buss, Chairperson

54 Signed, James A. Kellerman, Secretary



**OVERTURE TO THE 60th CONVENTION
OF
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT
MARCH 11 – 12, 2022**

To the 60th Convention of
The Northern Illinois District of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
March 11 – 12, 2022

OVERTURE: 2-03

Subject: TO CHANGE PROCEDURES REGARDING INDUCTION OF OFFICE

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

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

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

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

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

V. ELECTION PROCEDURES

F. Induction into Office

1. **Members of the Board of Regents for Concordia University Chicago shall assume office upon the close of the district convention in conformity with the Handbook of Synod, 3.2.4.a.** All these **others** elected into office at the Northern Illinois District Convention shall assume office as of the first day of the third month, subsequent to the convention.
2. Induction into office of those elected at the Northern Illinois District Convention shall be on a date ~~on or subsequent to the first day of the~~



46 ~~third month subsequent to the district convention.~~ **or dates chosen by**
47 **the newly elected President. It may be before or after the**
48 **assumption of duties.**

49 3. ~~The initial meeting of the boards and commissions shall ordinarily be~~
50 ~~held in association with the induction and shall begin with a combined~~
51 ~~orientation program conducted under the direction of the President.~~

52

53 Respectfully submitted,

54

55 Northern Illinois District Board of Directors

56 Signed, Allan R. Buss, Chairperson

57 Signed, James A. Kellerman, Secretary



1 **OVERTURE TO THE 60th CONVENTION**
 2 **OF**
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 4 **MARCH 11 – 12, 2022**

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 8 The Northern Illinois District of
 9 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 10 March 11 – 12, 2022

11
 12 OVERTURE: 2-04

13
 14 **Subject:** AFFIRMING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

15
 16 **WHEREAS**, life is a gift from God sacrosanct from conception to natural death
 17 (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:13; Psalm 139:13-16).

18
 19 **WHEREAS**, attacks on human life within our country have resulted in the loss of 62
 20 million people though abortion on demand.

21
 22 **WHEREAS**, attacks on human life continue to accelerate through the promotion of
 23 assisted suicide and euthanasia.

24
 25 **Resolved**, that congregations continue to support ministries that support and witness
 26 to the sanctity of human life such as Lutherans For Life, Redeeming Life Outreach
 27 Ministry NID Expansion, pregnancy resource centers and the NID-Life Task Force.

28
 29 **Resolved**, that pastors, teacher, DCE's, deaconesses and other synodically trained
 30 professional church workers actively seek ways to educate members of their churches
 31 on the scriptural basis of the sanctity of human life and its life applications.

32
 33 **Resolved**, that congregational members be encouraged to serve in activities promoting
 34 life within their communities.

35
 36 **Resolved**, that congregations be encouraged to designate one or more Sundays a year
 37 to focus on the confession of God's gift of life, as it confronts contemporary beliefs and
 38 practices against it, through corporate worship, educational opportunities, service
 39 activities, and other events.

40
 41 Respectfully Submitted,



- 42 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rock Falls, IL
- 43 Signed, Kim Groharing, Chairman of Elders
- 44 Signed, Cheryl Hepner, Secretary



1 **OVERTURE TO THE 60th CONVENTION**
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11
 12 OVERTURE: 2-05

13
 14 **Subject:** TO PERMIT ELECTRONIC BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

15
 16 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 1.5.3 permits every agency of the Synod to “select a manner
 17 of meeting, consistent with [Synod’s] Board of Directors policy, that best enhances its
 18 ability to accomplish its mission, taking into consideration fostering the open
 19 exchange of ideas, availability of technology to all members, stewardship of resources,
 20 perception of fairness, controversial nature of agenda items, and whether secret
 21 ballots might be used”; and

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

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

28 **I. ADMINISTRATION**

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

- 31 1. The Board of Directors shall meet at least six times a year.
- 32 2. Special meetings of the board may be called by the chairperson or
 33 upon the request of four members unless otherwise specified in
 34 these bylaws.
- 35 3. **The Board of Directors has authority to establish its own**
 36 **policies to govern when, where, and how its meetings will be**
 37 **conducted. The board shall establish its policies for the**
 38 **triennium at its first meeting, but may amend them in**
 39 **subsequent meetings. Meetings may be held in person, by**



40 **electronic means (e.g., teleconference or videoconference), or**
 41 **in any other manner that allows for the open exchange of**
 42 **ideas, uses technology available to all directors, and meets the**
 43 **criteria set forth in the *Handbook of Synod*, 1.5.3.**

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

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

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

52 ~~67.~~ The board shall actively seek opportunities to provide and receive
 53 information, resources, and reports from conferences of
 54 professional church workers regarding ministry needs and
 55 opportunities in the district. And be it finally

56 **Resolved**, That the following changes be made to Article I.F.4 of the district's bylaws
 57 (additions in **bold underline**; deletions in ~~striketrough~~):

58 F. Principles Governing the Organization and Activities of Appointed
 59 Commissions and Committees

60 4. Each commission or committee shall meet at least four times a
 61 year. **Each commission or committee has authority to**
 62 **establish its own policies to govern when, where, and how it**
 63 **will meet. Each commission or committee shall establish its**
 64 **policies for the triennium at its first meeting, but may amend**
 65 **them in subsequent meetings. Meetings may be held in**
 66 **person, by electronic means (e.g., teleconference or**
 67 **videoconference), or in any other manner that allows for the**
 68 **open exchange of ideas, uses technology available to all**
 69 **directors, and meets the criteria set forth in the *Handbook of***
 70 **Synod, 1.5.3.**

71

72 Respectfully submitted,

73 Northern Illinois District Board of Directors

74 Signed, Allan R. Buss, Chairperson

75 Signed, James A. Kellerman, Secretary



1 **OVERTURE TO THE 60th CONVENTION**
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 8 The Northern Illinois District of
 9 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
 10 March 11 – 12, 2022

11
 12 OVERTURE: 2-06

13
 14 **Subject:** THE 60TH CONVENTION OF THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT TO THANK
 15 GOD AND CONGREGATIONS, MINISTRIES, AND INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR
 16 FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF DISTRICT AND SYNOD

17
 18 **WHEREAS,** The Apostle Paul frequently gives thanks to God for congregations and
 19 individuals in their faithful service to our Lord in partnership in the Gospel [Romans
 20 1:8; I Corinthians 1:4; Ephesians 1:15-16; Philippians 1:3-5; Colossians 1:3-5; II
 21 Timothy 1:3; etc.] and,

22
 23 **WHEREAS,** Our confessions encourage us to always receive the Lord's blessings
 24 with thanksgiving [Luther's Small Catechism, Lord's Prayer, the Fourth Petition]
 25 and,

26 **WHEREAS,** Congregations, ministries, and individuals within the Northern Illinois
 27 District, even in the midst of the uncertain days of the pandemic, faithfully
 28 responded to Christ's grace in their unwavering support for our collective work in
 29 God's kingdom through their offerings and financial gifts to the Northern Illinois
 30 District and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Therefore be it

31
 32 **Resolved,** That the 60th Convention of the Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran
 33 Church Missouri Synod thank our faithful partners in Gospel for their continued
 34 financial support of our work together, and be it finally

35
 36 **Resolved,** That the assembled convention rise and give thanks to God for the fruit
 37 of faith He has graciously worked in these partners in the Gospel by singing the
 38 doxology.

39 Respectfully Submitted,

40 The Northern Illinois District
 41 The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod



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6
7

**OVERTURE TO THE 60th CONVENTION
OF
THE LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT
MARCH 11 – 12, 2022**

8 To the 60th Convention of
9 The Northern Illinois District of
10 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
11 March 11 – 12, 2022
12

13 OVERTURE: 2-07
14

15 **Subject:** CONGREGATIONS OF A CIRCUIT CAN HAVE A GREATER IMPACT FOR THE
16 GOSPEL BY WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the congregations of our circuit can have a greater impact for the gospel
19 by working more closely together, and

20 **WHEREAS**, awareness of and cooperation in providing that ministry of the gospel
21 makes our partnership in the gospel more effective, therefore be it

22 **Resolved**, that circuit visitors be encouraged to work closely with the congregations
23 and their pastors and lay leaders to 1) develop lists of the ministries provided in each
24 congregation, and contact information for those ministries, and 2) to raise awareness
25 and to facilitate cooperation between congregations in offering both the gospel itself
26 and opportunities to work together across parish lines.
27

28 Respectfully Submitted,

29 Circuit 9W

30 Signed, Rev. Robert H. Rub, Jr., Interim Circuit Visitor



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11
 12 OVERTURE: 2-08

13
 14 **Subject:** ADDING A FOURTH THREE-YEAR TERM TO THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT OF
 15 THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT LCMS

16
 17 **WHEREAS,** In the recent past the District President of the Northern Illinois District
 18 was allowed to stand for election for four consecutive three-year terms, and

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

21 **WHEREAS,** we, the church, are now coming clear from a most unprecedented time of
 22 social uncertainty, fear and national government inconsistency due to the Covid virus
 23 and the call for vaccinations, and

24 **WHEREAS,** This pandemic has limited the scope and ability of the district to carry out
 25 its full vision for almost two years, therefore be it

26 **Resolved,** That the Northern Illinois District would again allow a man to run for four
 27 consecutive three-year terms to be President of the Northern Illinois District, and be it
 28 further

29 **Resolved,** That this resolution would go into effect under the present President's
 30 administration.

31
 32 Respectfully submitted,

33 Immanuel Lutheran Church of East Dundee, IL.

34 Signed, Doug Hoyt, Chairman

35 Signed, Julie Schmidt, Secretary



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11
 12 OVERTURE: 3-01

13
 14 **Subject:** OWNING THE MISSION

15
 16 **WHEREAS**, The Northern Illinois District is the 200+ congregations of northern Illinois
 17 with over 97,000 members, not the office in Hillside, as has often been stated, and
 18

19 **WHEREAS**, The responsibility of carrying out the mission of the church belongs to
 20 each congregation in which pastors are called not to do the work of the church, but to
 21 prepare God's people for the work of the church as it says in Ephesians 4:11-13 - "It
 22 was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to evangelists, and
 23 some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service so that
 24 the body of Christ may be built up ...", and
 25

26 **WHEREAS**, Each and every congregation is filled with disciples - not mere "members"
 27 - whom the Holy Spirit has equipped with gifts to carry out the work of the church as
 28 it says in 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12 and Ephesians 4, and
 29

30 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod follows in the tradition of Martin
 31 Luther who restored to the Church and championed the priesthood of all believers as
 32 expressed in Scripture - "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy
 33 nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called
 34 you out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9); and as Luther explained -
 35 "For in Baptism none of us is born an apostle, preacher, teacher, pastor; but there all
 36 of us are born solely priests" (What Luther Says, 1140:3646), and
 37

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



42
 43 **WHEREAS**, Jesus said in Matthew 25 - "For I was hungry and you gave me something
 44 to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you
 45 invited me in;, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after
 46 me, I was in prison and you came to visit me" (w .35-36). Also, the Holy Spirit says
 47 through the apostle Paul in Hebrews 13 - "Remember those in prison as if you were
 48 their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were
 49 suffering." And

50
 51 **WHEREAS**, The mission of the Northern Illinois District is to be - "Filled with living
 52 hope in Christ, Confessing, Praising, and Advancing His Kingdom" - which has a 3-
 53 part vision:

- 54
- 55 1. WORD: Helping congregations be more centered on a rich life of Word
 56 and Sacrament, with congregational support in transitions as well as
 57 time of joys and sorrows.
 - 58 2. WELLNESS: Promoting and encouraging health and vitality in
 59 congregations, schools, ministries, professional workers and Lay-leaders.
 60
 - 61 3. WITNESS: Encouraging personal witnessing, congregational engagement
 62 with their community, support of our NID partnerships and missions
 63 and sharing a world mission field together.
 64

65
 66 Therefore be it...

67
 68 **Resolved**, That each congregation, circuit, region, and including the entire NID as a
 69 whole, identify the needs and opportunities within its own respective defined
 70 geographical area, and be it further

71
 72 **Resolved**, That congregations, individually and working with one another, would own
 73 the mission to address these needs and opportunities by tapping into the enormous,
 74 collective resource of God's gifted people within the Northern Illinois District, and be it
 75 further

76
 77 **Resolved**, That the work of identifying and owning the mission would be incorporated
 78 into the regular and on-going agenda at each level of district - utilizing the current
 79 structures of circuits, regions, and district, and be it further

80
 81 **Resolved**, That every pastor would be encouraged to continue nurturing and
 82 equipping God's people for works of service through Word and Sacrament ministry, as
 83 well as, training toward specific ministries and jobs, and be it further



84
85 **Resolved,** That the called staff of the Northern Illinois District provide encouragement,
86 support and tools toward that end, and be it further

87
88 **Resolved,** That owning the mission of jails, prisons, and detention centers begin
89 immediately.

90

91 Respectfully Submitted,

92 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Frankfort, Illinois

93 Signed, Ronald Ekstrom, Chairman

94 Signed, Linda Tuller, Secretary



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11
 12 OVERTURE: 3-02

13
 14 **Subject:** ADOPTION OF THE BELIZE FORO AS THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT'S
 15 OFFICIAL MISSION PARTNER

16
 17 **WHEREAS**, Christ Jesus has blessed His Church to be His witnesses “to the ends of
 18 the earth” [Acts 1:8], and

19
 20 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod is in partnerships with other
 21 Lutheran Churches and missions throughout the world, serving in the joyful work our
 22 Savior has given us, and

23
 24 **WHEREAS**, The Rocky Mountain, Missouri, and Texas Districts have participated in
 25 mission work with the Belize FORO [Forum – a system of support used for LCMS
 26 missions and sister churches in Latin America and the Caribbean], and been financial
 27 supporters of this ministry, and

28
 29 **WHEREAS**, An official partnership for The Northern Illinois District with a foreign
 30 mission may afford many of our congregations, who might not otherwise have the
 31 opportunity, the chance to share in bringing the Gospel to the ends of the earth
 32 through their prayers, financial support, and direct participation through short-term
 33 mission trips. Such a partnership, we pray, would certainly also bless that partner
 34 ministry, and

35
 36 **WHEREAS**, The Belize Mission Society, located here in the Northern Illinois District, is
 37 a Recognized Service Organization which has worked extensively with the Belize FORO
 38 to assist in establishing a Lutheran confession and church in Belize, and

39
 40 **WHEREAS**, The Office of International Mission called synod's first full- time
 41 missionary to the Belize Mission for the LCMS in 2016, and



42
43 **WHEREAS**, There is great opportunity for the flourishing of the confession of the
44 Gospel through the Belize FORO which, with one congregation launched and others
45 forming, is the only Lutheran church in the entire country, and

46
47 **WHEREAS**, A mission partnership in Belize has advantages for short-term mission
48 trips for congregations as the country's official language is English and being located
49 in the northern hemisphere, allows for easier and cheaper travel than a more distant
50 partnership, thus allowing for more efficient use of mission dollars, and

51
52 **WHEREAS**, several congregations of The Northern Illinois District already have a
53 relationship with the Belize FORO where a base for continuing support for this
54 mission work has already been established, and

55
56 **WHEREAS**, The Northern Illinois District's Board of Directors has voted to adopt the
57 Belize FORO as our mission partner for a three year commitment at their January
58 2020 meeting, therefore be it

59
60 **Resolved**, That the Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
61 adopt the Belize FORO as an official mission partner, and be it further

62
63 **Resolved**, That the leadership of the Northern Illinois District work with congregations
64 to send short-term mission teams to Belize to further the work of the Gospel there, to
65 further educate congregations on our Lord's work in the mission field through post-
66 trip presentations, and to help foster a mission-mindedness within our own local
67 communities, and be it finally

68
69 **Resolved**, That the congregations, schools and ministries of the Northern Illinois
70 District be commended to regularly remember Mission Belize in their prayers and
71 graciously to support this work of our Lord through our offerings.

72
73 Respectfully Submitted,

74
75 Northern Illinois District Board of Directors
76 Signed, Allan R. Buss, Chairperson
77 Signed, James A. Kellerman, Secretary



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11
 12 OVERTURE: 3-03

13
 14 **Subject:** NID W10 Pastors Concerning the Closure of Concordia College New York

15
 16 **WHEREAS**, the recent closures of Concordia College Alabama, Concordia University-
 17 Portland, and Concordia College New York were necessitated by harsh financial and
 18 demographic realities but nevertheless remain a point of great sadness for their
 19 current and former students and all who love their mission of proclaiming Christ and
 20 raising up Christian leaders, and

21
 22 **WHEREAS**, Concordia University-Portland and Concordia College New York served as
 23 strong LCM S presences in major metropolitan areas in need of hearing the Gospel of
 24 Jesus Christ and Concordia College Alabama held a unique place as the only LCMS
 25 school among the Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and

26
 27 **WHEREAS**, the work of Dr. Rosa J. Young and the many faithful pastors and
 28 laypeople who toiled for the kingdom alongside her shines as a bright light within the
 29 history of home missions in the LCMS, and

30
 31 **WHEREAS**, the work of many faithful pastors and laypeople in the inner cities and
 32 urban areas of the United States has long also held an important place in the history
 33 of missions in the LCMS, and

34
 35 **WHEREAS**, home missions have from the foundation of the synod been recognized as
 36 a vital part of the work of the church and essential to faithfully carrying out Great
 37 Commission, and

38
 39 **WHEREAS**, the need for home missions is no less now than it was in the past, and
 40



41 **WHEREAS**, the closure of these institutions in no way obviates or lessens the need to
 42 continue the work for which they were founded by our forebearers in the faith, and
 43 **WHEREAS**, the delay of the synodical convention by one year due to COVID renders it
 44 likely too late to address the disposition of the assets derived from the sale of the
 45 campus of Concordia College New York, therefore be it

46
 47 **Resolved**, that we respectfully petition the boards of directors of the synod and of the
 48 Concordia University System to allocate from the funds derived from the sale of the
 49 campus of Concordia College New York money to endow one chair of domestic
 50 missions at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO and to endow one chair of domestic
 51 missions at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN to ensure the continuation
 52 of this important work by the training of future pastors to labor in these harvest
 53 fields, and further be it

54
 55 **Resolved**, that the name of each chair be the "Dr. Rosa J. Young-Concordia Alabama
 56 and New York Legacy Chair of Domestic Missions," and further be it

57
 58 **Resolved**, that the qualifications required for each chair include the following: the
 59 holder shall be an ordained minister in good standing in the LCMS who possesses at
 60 least ten (10) years of experience serving as a pastor or missionary in one or multiple
 61 fields of domestic missions and who possess an advanced degree, and further be it

62
 63 **Resolved**, that we petition the aforementioned boards to further allocate from the
 64 aforementioned sale funds a portion as shall seem appropriate and convenient to them
 65 for the support of domestic missions through the training of students and pastors,
 66 support of domestic mission work, and other such efforts as shall seem convenient
 67 and conducive to the pertinent bodies administering such funds with particular
 68 attention given to black and urban and inner city work, and further be it

69
 70 **Resolved**, that if the disposition of the funds from the sale of the campus of Concordia
 71 College New York does not take place until after the 2023 convention of the LCMS this
 72 resolution be accepted as an overture in good standing to that convention or the
 73 secretary of Synod relay to this circuit the need to re submit this resolution as a
 74 regular overture to that convention.

75
 76 Respectfully Submitted,

77
 78 Circuit W10



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11
 12 OVERTURE: 3-04

13
 14 **Subject:** LIFE IS A GIFT FROM GOD SACROSANCT FROM CONCEPTION TO
 15 NATURAL DEATH

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

19
 20 **WHEREAS**, attacks on human life within our country have resulted in the loss of 62
 21 million people though abortion on demand.

22
 23 **WHEREAS**, attacks on human life continue to accelerate through the promotion of
 24 assisted suicide and euthanasia.

25
 26 **Resolved**, that congregations continue to support ministries that advocate for and
 27 witness to the sanctity of human life such as Lutherans For Life, Redeeming Life
 28 Outreach Ministry NID Expansion, pregnancy resource centers and the NID-Life Task
 29 Force.

30
 31 **Resolved**, that pastors, teachers, DCEs, deaconesses and other synodically trained
 32 professional church workers actively seek ways to educate members of their churches
 33 on the scriptural basis of the sanctity of human life and its life applications.

34
 35 **Resolved**, that congregational members be encouraged to serve in activities promoting
 36 life within their communities.

37
 38 **Finally Resolved**, that congregations be encouraged to designate one or more
 39 Sundays each year to focus on the confession of God's gift of life, as it confronts
 40 contemporary beliefs and practices against it, through corporate worship,
 41 educational opportunities , service activities, and other events.



42
43 Respectfully submitted,
44
45 Circuit S19
46 Signed, Rev. John Holyer, Circuit Visitor



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 12 OVERTURE: 3-05

13
 14 **Subject:** TO STUDY THE NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT’S MINISTRY WITH
 15 MULTIETHNIC COMMUNITIES AND GROW IN OUR UNDERSTANDING AND ACTIONS
 16 OF RACIAL RECONCILIATION
 17

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

22 **WHEREAS**, Racism was defined in the 2019 Resolution as “a belief that race is the
 23 primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences
 24 produce an inherent superiority of a particular race (www.merriam-
 25 webster.com/dictionary/racism); and

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

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

33 **WHEREAS**, “Racism is so much a part of the American worldview, it is often difficult
 34 for us to recognize it when we see it” (“Racism and the Church”, CTCR 1994, p. 27);
 35 and

36 **WHEREAS**, Paul exhorts Christians to “take no part in the unfruitful works of
 37 darkness, but instead expose them” (Ephesians 5:11), “racism must be regarded
 38 among the ‘works of darkness’ that produce nothing of any value to anyone. The
 39 church, aware of its history in the United States, must continually employ methods



40 grounded in the Word and sacraments and in the proper distinction between Law and
 41 Gospel—to expose, condemn, and remove [racism]” (“Racism and the Church”, CTCR
 42 1994, p. 39); and

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

46 **WHEREAS**, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandments are to love God and love
 47 your neighbor (Mark 12:30-31); and

48 **WHEREAS**, Jesus illustrates for his disciples that they are to treat all persons as
 49 neighbor (Luke 10:29-37); and

50 **WHEREAS**, Paul exhorts us to show the love of Christ as we “bear one another’s
 51 burdens” (Galatians 6:2); and

52 **WHEREAS**, Martin Luther, in his explanations of the fifth and seventh
 53 commandments, extolls us to show that love as we care for our neighbors as we
 54 support them in their needs, well-being, income, and property; and

55 **WHEREAS**, President Matthew Harrison issued a statement in 2020 in response to the
 56 killing of George Floyd saying, “Discriminatory treatment of human beings on the
 57 basis of race is irrational evil and results in evil,” and “We shall pray, but we shall do
 58 even more. We shall follow the ancient mandate of the prophet of Yahweh: ‘He has told
 59 you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
 60 and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?’ (Micah 6:8)”; therefore, be it

61 **Resolved**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention call upon the Convention
 62 Chaplain or another leader to pray against the sin of racism in our history, asking the
 63 Holy Spirit to transform our lives to reflect God’s love for all nations; and be it further

64 **Resolved**, That the people of Northern Illinois District congregations, as President
 65 Harrison said, will “pray, but we shall do even more”, dismantle racist structures in
 66 our midst and engaging in acts of reconciliation; and be it further

67 **Resolved**, This work of antiracism be informed by an understanding of our history
 68 and the need for this work of justice. Therefore, the District President will commission
 69 an ethnically diverse task force, including professional church workers, laypeople with
 70 background in such work, and young adults, to study the Northern Illinois District’s
 71 history of mission, ministry, and education within multiethnic communities, to be
 72 completed within eighteen months, so that we might better make confession of our
 73 failures and recognize where God has granted growth to His Church; and be it further

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



77 **Resolved**, That we encourage Churches, Districts and Synod to address and figure
78 out ways to follow through on this study which exemplifies the ministry of
79 reconciliation which Christ has given to us (2 Corinthians 5:11-21). Our people will
80 follow through on the LCMS 2019 resolution (11-04A) and “work towards racial
81 reconciliation and equality within the Church and within society-at-large, praying that
82 those who advocate racist ideologies and those who are deceived by them be brought
83 to repentance, and that justice and healing come to those have been wounded”; and be
84 it further

85 **Resolved**, That the study will be distributed by mail to all congregations in the district
86 and made available on the district Web site; and be it finally

87 **Resolved**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention memorialize the Synod in
88 convention in 2023 to call on the faculty of our two seminaries to do a similar study of
89 our national mission, ministry, and education efforts to be completed within twenty
90 four months after district proceedings and made available on the Synodical Website
91 and emailed to member congregations.

92

93 Respectfully Submitted,

94 Bethel Lutheran Church, Gurnee IL

95 Signed, Elizabeth Blasko, President

96 Signed, Lynn Faitsch, Recording Secretary

97

98 Supported by:

99 NID Circuit N5; Tabor Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL; St. Paul Lutheran Church,
100 Chicago, IL (Dorchester); NID Circuit E14; NID Circuit N1



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11
 12 OVERTURE: 3-06

13
 14 **Subject:** ENCOURAGING OUR PASTORS TO SPEND TIME WITH COMMUNITY
 15 LEADERS, LEARNING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND STUDYING CURRENT
 16 DEMOGRAPHIC DATA WITH THE INTENTION OF ENCOURAGING THEIR CHURCH
 17 TO SERVE ACCORDINGLY AND AS THEY ARE ABLE.

18
 19 **WHEREAS,** There is a need to reinvigorate our churches after the COVID lockdown,
 20 and

21
 22 **WHEREAS,** Church budgets are often limited, and

23
 24 **WHEREAS,** Community leaders also have limited budgets and communities with
 25 unmet needs, and

26
 27 **WHEREAS,** Ministry that has actually been requested is usually the most effective,
 28 and

29
 30 **WHEREAS,** We are taught in Scripture to pray for those in authority, both inside and
 31 outside the Church, and

32
 33 **WHEREAS,** Missions helps us to look beyond ourselves and to the eternal needs of our
 34 neighbors, therefore be it

35
 36 **Resolved,** Pastors be encouraged to set the example and meet regularly with
 37 Community Leaders, and be it further

38
 39 **Resolved,** Our District office continue to be encouraged to have regular updates from
 40 the field which highlight these evangelistic efforts, and be it further



41 **Resolved**, District office identify and seek advice and support for this, from other
42 Lutheran-based organizations such as LCFS, LCC, CUC, LCEF, LWML, Thrivent, and
43 be it further
44

45 **Resolved**, Based on expected success, that NID submit this overture to 2023 LCMS
46 convention
47

48 **Resolved**, Our next District Convention include workshops which are led by Pastors
49 and Churches that have served in this way during the years between this Convention
50 and our next one.
51

52 Respectfully submitted,
53

54 Faith Lutheran Church, Lake Forest, IL
55

56 Signed, Jeff Chang, President
57

58 Signed, Mike Patterson, Secretary
59

59 Supported by:
60

60 NID Circuit N1



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11
 12 OVERTURE: 3-07 (LATE)

13
 14 **Subject:** TO AFFIRM BIBLICAL TRUTH IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

15
 16 **Overview:** Our nation is in the midst of a great public debate in which the Church's
 17 voice is desperately needed. While Christians may – with a clear conscience and in
 18 Christian love – disagree with one another on some societal discussions, we must
 19 stand together, clearly affirm Biblical Truth, and repudiate unbiblical positions on
 20 issues that clearly confront the Christian faith.

21 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative for a healthy society to uphold free and open debate and
 22 *peaceful* protests, even for those with whom we might disagree, and

23 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative for a healthy society to discuss openly and honestly
 24 sensitive matters such as race relations, and

25 **WHEREAS**, within the course of such social discourse positions are often advocated
 26 that are clearly contrary to the Christian faith, and

27 **WHEREAS**, Christians are called – not only in the sanctuary or the home, but also in
 28 the public square – to confess clearly and boldly Biblical Truth and to repudiate
 29 unscriptural falsehoods, even when such confession is unpopular before the world,
 30 therefore be it

31 **Resolved**, That we as the Northern Illinois District affirm the importance for free
 32 speech, *peaceful* protests, public debate, and the necessity of godly Christian
 33 confession therein, and be it

34 **Resolved**, that we as the Northern Illinois District affirm the importance of public
 35 discussion and healing over society's most sensitive issues, including race relations,
 36 and be it

37 **Resolved**, that we as the Northern Illinois District repudiate any and all unbiblical
 38 positions within that debate, such as the following



- 39 • Any aspirations for white supremacy
 40 • The following positions of the Black Lives Matter movement:
 41 ○ Its effort “to dismantle cisgender privilege and uplift Black trans
 42 folk”
 43 ○ Its intention to “disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family
 44 structure” (the Biblical design for the family structure: husband,
 45 wife, blessed – as God wills – with children)
 46 ○ Its intention to resist “the belief that all in the world are
 47 heterosexual.”
 48 • Critical Race Theory

49 and be it further

50 **Resolved**, that we as the Northern Illinois District confess and affirm before our
 51 society the following Biblical Truths on which this debate is centered:

- 52 • That all people are created by God and are children of Adam and Noah, so that
 53 there is truly one human race and, thus, all lives matter to God and to
 54 Christians
 55 • That the estate of marriage and the family is designed by God and is to be
 56 cherished and confessed as God created it: “A man shall leave his father and
 57 mother and cleave to his wife and the two shall become one flesh,” a divine
 58 union that, as God wills, begets and is blessed with children, “Be fruitful and
 59 multiply.”
 60 • That the Christ was sent to die for the sins of the whole world, as St John says,
 61 “and not our sins only, but for the sins of the whole world,” for “God so loved
 62 the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him
 63 shall not perish but have everlasting life.”

64 and be it further

65 **Resolved**, that – in thanksgiving to God for our unity in creation and salvation – this
 66 assembly stand and sing together LSB 828, “We Are Called To Stand Together.”

67

68 Respectfully submitted,
 69 The sister congregations of Circuit N3

