



2018 District Convention Resolution 18-01



1
2 **Resolution 18-01 – To Honor Rev.**
3 **Dr. Larry & Mrs. Linda Stoterau for**
4 **45 Years of Service**
5
6 *Reference: Convention Workbook*
7
8 **WHEREAS**, the Rev. Dr. Larry Stoterau
9 has served in pastoral ministry in the
10 Pacific Southwest District with
11 faithfulness and excellence for 45
12 years; and
13
14 **WHEREAS**, Mrs. Linda Stoterau has
15 served those same years with
16 excellence and distinction in education,
17 music, and human care ministries; and
18
19 **WHEREAS**, they have served
20 respectively as President and First Lady
21 of the Pacific Southwest District for the
22 past 18 years; therefore, be it
23
24 **RESOLVED**, that the Pacific Southwest
25 District in convention thanks God for
26 President and Mrs. Stoterau, and
27 honors their service with a standing
28 ovation.
29



2018 District Convention Resolution 18-02



1 **Resolution 18-02 – To Amend the**
2 **Articles of Incorporation of the**
3 **Pacific Southwest District**
4 *Reference: Unpublished Overture 12*
5
6 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church-
7 Missouri Synod has requested
8 amendments and restatements to
9 the Pacific Southwest District
10 Articles of Incorporation; therefore
11 be it
12
13 **RESOLVED**, that the District’s
14 Articles of Incorporation be
15 amended and restated as follows:
16
17 **Articles of Incorporation**
18 of
19 The Pacific Southwest District of The
20 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
21
22 Article I Name, Duration,
23 Registered Office, and Agent
24 a. The name of this corporation
25 shall be “The Pacific
26 Southwest District of The
27 Lutheran Church—Missouri
28 Synod.”
29 b. The period of duration of the
30 corporation is perpetual.
31 c. The address of the registered
32 office of this corporation as of
33 May 2, 2018 is 1540
34 Concordia, Irvine, CA 92612.
35 d. The registered agent of this
36 corporation is Rev. Dr. Larry
37 Stoterau, 1540 Concordia,
38 Irvine, CA 92612.
39
40 Article II Objectives
41 The objectives of this corporation
42 shall be to carry out within the
43 Pacific Southwest District the
44 objectives of The Lutheran
45 Church—Missouri Synod.

46 Article III Membership
47 The membership of this corporation
48 is the congregations and the
49 ordained and commissioned
50 ministers of religion of The Lutheran
51 Church—Missouri Synod who have
52 affiliated with this district.
53
54 The voting power of this corporation
55 resides in the congregations which
56 are members of the corporation.
57 These congregations exercise this
58 voting power through the accredited
59 pastoral and lay delegates of those
60 same congregations of the Synod
61 that have affiliated with this district.
62
63 Article IV Meetings
64 This corporation shall have general
65 meetings of its members in the
66 years prescribed by the constitution
67 and bylaws of The Lutheran
68 Church—Missouri Synod. Special
69 meetings may be called in such
70 manner as may be provided by the
71 Synod.
72 Article V Officers and Board of
73 Directors
74 a. The officers of this
75 corporation shall consist of a
76 president, vice-presidents as
77 specified by the bylaws of this
78 corporation, a secretary, a
79 treasurer and such others as
80 bylaws may identify.
81 b. The board of directors of this
82 corporation shall be of the
83 size and composition as shall
84 be determined in the bylaws
85 of this corporation.
86 c. The officers and members of
87 the board of directors shall be
88 elected at the general
89 meetings of this corporation
90 for such terms as shall be



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91	specified by the bylaws of this	136	<u>direction from The Lutheran</u>
92	corporation and shall serve	137	<u>Church—Missouri Synod in</u>
93	until their successors are duly	138	<u>convention, the assets of the</u>
94	elected and have qualified.	139	<u>corporation, subject to its</u>
95		140	<u>liabilities, shall be</u>
96	Article VI Property	141	<u>transferred, consistent with</u>
97	This corporation shall have power to	142	<u>applicable state and federal</u>
98	acquire by gift, grants, demise,	143	<u>laws, to The Lutheran</u>
99	devise, bequest, purchase, or	144	<u>Church—Missouri Synod as</u>
100	otherwise, property of every kind	145	<u>may be more specifically</u>
101	and description, real, personal, or	146	<u>described in its Bylaws. after</u>
102	mixed; to hold and use such	147	<u>the payment of the debts of</u>
103	property and deal with, or dispose	148	<u>the corporation, all right, title,</u>
104	of, any or all such property by sale,	149	<u>and interest in and to its</u>
105	exchange, or gift, when necessary	150	<u>property, whether tangible or</u>
106	or expedient to carry out the	151	<u>intangible and whether real or</u>
107	objectives—of the corporation;	152	<u>personal, shall thereupon</u>
108	provided that all such property shall	153	<u>automatically vest in or be</u>
109	be acquired, dealt with, or disposed	154	<u>transferred to the Synod, and</u>
110	of in a manner not in conflict with the	155	<u>this corporation covenants</u>
111	laws of the State of (insert name of	156	<u>and agrees to execute and</u>
112	state where Articles are filed) or the	157	<u>deliver to the Synod such</u>
113	laws of any state in which said	158	<u>documents and instruments</u>
114	property is located.	159	<u>and to take such other and</u>
115		160	<u>further actions as the Synod</u>
116	Article VII Constitution and Bylaws	161	<u>may—deem—reasonably</u>
117	a. The Constitution of The	162	<u>necessary or desirable, in</u>
118	Lutheran Church—Missouri	163	<u>order to evidence and give</u>
119	Synod is also the Constitution	164	<u>full effect to the foregoing.</u>
120	of this corporation.	165	This provision may not be
121	b. The Bylaws of The Lutheran	166	altered or deleted without the
122	Church—Missouri Synod	167	approval of the Synod in
123	shall primarily be the Bylaws	168	convention or the Board of
124	of this corporation. This	169	Directors of the Synod.
125	corporation may adopt	170	
126	additional bylaws that are not	171	b. If, however, on the date of
127	in conflict with the	172	such proposed dissolution,
128	Constitution, Bylaws, and	173	The Lutheran
129	resolutions of the Synod.	174	Church—Missouri Synod, a
130		175	Missouri Corporation, or its
131	Article VIII Dissolution	176	successor, is no longer in
132	a. In the event this corporation	177	existence, the assets of the
133	is dissolved or its existence	178	corporation may be
134	otherwise terminates or is	179	distributed to any other
135	terminated, <u>other than by</u>	180	Section 501(c)(3)



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181	organization as designated	226	Missouri Synod Incorporated
182	by the board of directors.	227	is responsible for the debts
183		228	or other obligation of this
184	Article IX Relationship to the Synod	229	corporation nor do they
185	This corporation, as part of The	230	represent or endorse the
186	Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,	231	fiscal solvency of this
187	acknowledges its allegiance to the	232	corporation.
188	Synod and to the convention of the	233	
189	Synod. It submits to the authority of	234	Article X Amendments
190	the Synod and the convention. It	235	Amendments to these Articles of
191	accedes, recognizes, and accepts	236	Incorporation may be made at any
192	the doctrine taught and practiced in	237	time at a regularly called meeting of
193	the Synod (Art. II) and also the	238	this corporation by a majority of the
194	Articles of Incorporation,	239	voting delegates present at such
195	Constitution, and Bylaws of the	240	meeting, provided such
196	Synod, as currently in effect and as	241	amendments are not inconsistent
197	may hereafter be amended from	242	with the Constitution or the laws of
198	time to time.	243	the United States or the State of
199	a. <u>All provisions of these</u>	244	(insert state where articles are filed)
200	<u>Articles of Incorporation and</u>	245	or the Constitution or Bylaws of The
201	<u>associated Bylaws are</u>	246	Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,
202	<u>subject to the provisions of</u>	247	and with prior approval of the
203	<u>the Constitution, the Bylaws,</u>	248	Commission on Constitutional
204	<u>and the resolutions of The</u>	249	Matters of the Synod.
205	<u>Lutheran Church—Missouri</u>	250	
206	<u>Synod in convention. In the</u>	251	
207	event of any conflict or		
208	inconsistency between the		
209	organizational documents of		
210	this corporation and the		
211	Articles of Incorporation,		
212	Constitution, or Bylaws of the		
213	Synod, as may hereafter be		
214	amended from time to time,		
215	the Articles, Constitution, or		
216	Bylaws of the Synod shall		
217	control and govern.		
218	b. This provision may not be		
219	altered or deleted without the		
220	approval of the Synod in		
221	convention or the Board of		
222	Directors of the Synod.		
223	c. Neither The Lutheran		
224	Church—Missouri Synod nor		
225	The Lutheran Church --		



2018 District Convention Resolution 18-03



1
2 **Resolution 18-03 - To Realign**
3 **Circuits 8, 9 and 10**
4 *Reference: Overture 06*
5
6 **WHEREAS**, the pastors of circuits 8, 9
7 and 10 meet together monthly; and
8
9 **WHEREAS**, circuit 10 only has 5
10 constituted congregations; and
11
12 **WHEREAS**, the 15 congregations of
13 circuits 8 and 9, according to the 2017
14 statistical reports, had less than 1,500
15 confirmed members combined; and
16
17 **WHEREAS**, Christ Lutheran Church,
18 Rancho Palos Verdes, is geographically
19 isolated from circuit 10 making
20 participation in circuit events difficult
21 and infrequent, and yet it is connected
22 to the same communities of several
23 congregations in circuit 5; and
24
25 **WHEREAS**, Mt. Calvary Lutheran
26 Church, Diamond Bar, is geographically
27 isolated from circuit 8 making
28 participation in circuit events difficult
29 and infrequent, and yet it is connected
30 to the same communities of several
31 congregations in circuit 11; therefore be
32 it
33
34 **RESOLVED**, that Christ Lutheran
35 Church, Rancho Palos Verdes, be
36 relocated into circuit 5; and be it further
37
38 **RESOLVED**, that Mt. Calvary Lutheran
39 Church, Diamond Bar, be relocated into
40 circuit 11; and be it finally
41
42 **RESOLVED**, that the remaining 19
43 constituted congregations of circuits 8,
44
45

46
47 9 and 10 be merged into one new
48 circuit.
49
50



2018 District Convention Resolution 18-04



1 **Resolution 18-04 - To Ensure Timely**
2 **and Transparent Financial**
3 **Reporting in the Synod**

4 *Reference: Overture 10*

5

6 **WHEREAS**, a principle of Biblical
7 stewardship is to be accountable with
8 the resources with which one has been
9 entrusted, as expressed in the Parable
10 of the Talents (Matthew 25:14 ff.); and

11

12 **WHEREAS**, much is required of those
13 to whom God has entrusted his gifts: as
14 Jesus said, “Everyone to whom much
15 was given, of him much will be required,
16 and from him to whom they entrusted
17 much, they will demand the more” (Luke
18 12:48b, ESV); and

19

20 **WHEREAS**, the Scriptures teach “it is
21 required of stewards that they be found
22 faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2, ESV); and

23

24 **WHEREAS**, the Synod has historically
25 recognized its responsibility of
26 accountability and faithfulness in the
27 handling of the finances entrusted to it
28 by its members, as is witnessed in
29 Bylaw 1.5.4, “The Synod and each of its
30 agencies shall fully disclose their
31 financial books and records to any
32 member congregation of the Synod;”
33 and

34

35 **WHEREAS**, the Synod in previous
36 conventions has expressed its opinion
37 that such accountability and faithfulness
38 be found additionally in regular
39 reporting of such financial disclosure by
40 adopting 2010 Convention Resolution
41 4-03, “**To Broadly Communicate the**
42 **Statement of Financial Position of**
43 **LCMS**,” which reads in its totality:
44 “Whereas, it is helpful to understand the
45 Synod’s financial position and

46 communicate it to the members of the
47 congregations of Synod; therefore be it
48 Resolved, that each November, the
49 Vice-President–Finance–Treasurer of
50 the Synod use widely available means,
51 (i.e., The Lutheran Witness, Reporter,
52 the LCMS Website) to state the
53 financial position of the Synod in a
54 format easily understood by persons
55 unfamiliar with financial terminology.”
56 (2010 Convention Proceedings, p.
57 120); and

58

59 **WHEREAS**, the members of the Synod
60 expressed even further the need for full
61 transparency in all areas of financial
62 disclosure by adopting 2016 convention
63 RESOLUTION 9-04A, “**To Improve**
64 **Disclosures Related to Financial**
65 **Gifts from God’s Stewards for**
66 **Special Appeals**,” which stated in part,
67 “...Whereas, Monies for special
68 appeals requested by corporate Synod
69 (e.g., following natural disasters) are
70 reported only in part in Synod
71 publications (e.g., Reporter and The
72 Lutheran Witness) and sometimes only
73 annually; and ... Whereas, donors and
74 members of the Synod are interested in
75 the impact of funds raised for special
76 appeals and will appreciate improved
77 disclosure of results; therefore be it
78 Resolved, that the financial offices of
79 corporate Synod continue to recognize
80 the desire of donors and members of
81 the Synod to improve processes of
82 reporting and work to provide clear,
83 timely, and transparent accounting for
84 all funding and special appeals, so that
85 the Body of Christ may experience the
86 joy of Gospel-centered mission and
87 ministry beyond the local context or
88 community.” (2016 Convention
89 Proceedings, p. 189); and

90



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91 **WHEREAS**, it was reported to the 2013
92 Convention of the Synod by the Board
93 of Directors in its **Report on the**
94 **Disposition of Funding the Mission**
95 **Recommendations (R6-03-01)** that
96 “the decline in the Synod’s annual
97 unrestricted revenue continues...The
98 board believes that congregations will
99 respond through better, open, and
100 honest communication about the great
101 things God is able to accomplish for His
102 kingdom when we work together.
103 Numerous conventions have passed
104 resolutions calling on congregations to
105 maintain and increase unrestricted
106 support for district and Synod
107 ministries, yet the unrestricted support
108 passed through our districts to the
109 Synod has continued to decline at the
110 average rate of \$1 million each year.”
111 **(2013 Convention Workbook, p. 114-**
112 **115);** and

113
114 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, the Chief
115 Financial Officer of the Synod, in
116 reporting to the Synod about offerings
117 received, stated, “This sharing from
118 God’s bounty continues to decline.
119 Although the amount of decline in the
120 past three years has not been as severe
121 as the average decline of the previous
122 20 years, it is still trending negatively. In
123 the face of continued declining
124 unrestricted revenues, the ability of
125 Synod, Inc. to respond quickly and
126 nimbly to mission and ministry
127 opportunities and challenges laid
128 before us by our Lord also declines, as
129 does our ability to ‘fill in the gap’ when
130 restricted revenues, needed to fund
131 much of our mission and ministry
132 activities, fall short of their goals. The
133 financial challenges facing our beloved
134 Synod persist. I believe that these
135 challenges are of our own making, a

136 product of how we distribute the
137 resources provided by our loving
138 Father.” **(2016 Convention Workbook,**
139 **pp. 61-62);** and

140
141 **WHEREAS**, there have been few
142 tangible reports about the financial
143 struggles of the Synod, such as the
144 need to trim \$4 million dollars from the
145 budget of the Synod (ref. July 7, 2017
146 Reporter, [https://blogs.lcms.org/2017/in](https://blogs.lcms.org/2017/international-national-mission)
147 [ternational-national-mission](https://blogs.lcms.org/2017/international-national-mission) and the
148 May 19-20, 2017 Synod Board of
149 Directors Minutes
150 [https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?s](https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=4769)
151 [rc=lcm&id=4769](https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=4769)), these reports are
152 less than sufficient to keep the
153 members of the Synod regularly
154 informed about the financial condition of
155 the Synod; and

156
157 **WHEREAS**, it has been widely
158 reported, albeit not in the official
159 channels of the Synod communications,
160 that the Synod has only minimal days of
161 operating capital in its cash reserves,
162 which would seemingly place the synod
163 in a precarious financial position (ref.
164 Paragraph 45, Financial Reports of the
165 February 17-18, 2017 LCMS Board of
166 Directors Minutes
167 [https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?s](https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=4659)
168 [rc=lcm&id=4659](https://www.lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=4659)), which stated that
169 without funds held on behalf of the two
170 Seminaries, Synod had only 5 days of
171 cash available); and

172
173 **WHEREAS**, in the face of such
174 challenging financial times,
175 transparency and regularity in reporting
176 of the financial situation of the Synod is
177 of utmost importance to the members
178 and constituency of the Synod who
179 have a vested interest in the financial



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180 viability of the Synod and who merit
181 clear, concise, and timely reports; and
182
183 **WHEREAS**, the president of the synod
184 recommended in his report to the Synod
185 in 2016 that the synod have “Uniform
186 Financial Reporting.” (**2016 Today’s**
187 **Business, p. 28**); therefore be it
188
189 **RESOLVED**, that the Synod in
190 convention direct the Chief Financial
191 Officer to report quarterly in the Synod’s
192 official publications about the financial
193 position of the Synod in a format easily
194 understood by persons unfamiliar with
195 financial terminology, such transparent
196 reporting to include, but not limited to
197 income and expenses (with full
198 disclosure of fees and administrative
199 costs), budget versus spending, cash
200 reserves and cash position, etc.; and be
201 it further
202
203 **RESOLVED**, that these quarterly
204 reports include information about the
205 regular Synod budget and the reporting
206 on special appeals as stipulated in 2016
207 Resolution 9-04A; and be it further
208
209 **RESOLVED**, that the Synod be shrewd
210 managers with the resources God has
211 given it; and be it finally
212
213 **RESOLVED**, that the Synod give
214 thanks to God for the resources He has
215 entrusted to us, recognizing “that the
216 earth is the Lord’s and the fullness
217 thereof.” (Psalm 24:1, ESV).
218



2018 District Convention Resolution 18-05



1
2 **Resolution 18-05 – To Propose**
3 **Commissioned Ministers as Voting**
4 **Members at LCMS District and**
5 **Synodical Conventions**
6 *Reference: Overture 03, Overture 04,*
7 *and Overture 05*
8
9 **WHEREAS**, the Synod celebrates the
10 ministry contributions of Teachers,
11 Directors of Christian Education,
12 Directors of Christian Outreach,
13 Directors of Family Life Ministry,
14 Directors of Parish Music, and
15 Deaconesses through their inclusion
16 as “Ministers of Religion –
17 Commissioned”; Parish Assistants and
18 Certified Lay Ministers and
19
20 **WHEREAS**, the Synod recognizes the
21 voices and wisdom of our
22 commissioned ministers as gifts from
23 the Lord; and
24
25 **WHEREAS**, the Synodical Board of
26 Directors is comprised of ordained, lay
27 and commissioned ministers; and
28
29 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of
30 the Districts of Synod are comprised of
31 ordained, lay and commissioned
32 ministers; and
33
34 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Regents of
35 the various Concordia colleges and
36 universities are comprised of ordained,
37 lay and commissioned ministers; and
38
39 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Regents of
40 each of our seminaries is comprised of
41 ordained, lay and commissioned
42 ministers; and
43
44
45

46
47 **WHEREAS**, the various commissions,
48 committees and boards of Synod and
49 Districts are generally comprised of
50 ordained, lay and commissioned
51 ministers; therefore be it
52
53 **RESOLVED**, that The Pacific
54 Southwest District in convention
55 memorialize the regular convention of
56 the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
57 in 2019 to amend Article V, A. and B. of
58 the Synodical constitution as follows:
59
60 **V. Membership**
61 Membership in the Synod is held and
62 may be acquired by congregations,
63 Ministers of Religion - Ordained and
64 Ministers of Religion - Commissioned,
65 such as Teachers, Directors of
66 Christian Education, Directors of
67 Christian Outreach, Directors of Family
68 Life Ministry, Directors of Parish Music,
69 Deaconesses, Parish Assistants and
70 Certified Lay Ministers of the
71 Evangelical Lutheran Church who
72 confess and accept the confessional
73 basis of Article II.
74
75 **A Voting Members**
76
77 All organized congregations that have
78 joined the Synod hold voting
79 membership. At the meetings of the
80 districts of the Synod every
81 congregation or parish is entitled to up
82 to three votes, one of which is to be cast
83 by the pastor, one by the lay delegate,
84 and the other by a commissioned
85 minister. Congregations without a
86 commission minister may send a
87 second lay or pastoral delegate.
88
89 At the meetings of the Synod, a number
90 of congregations shall form a group



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91
92 (circuit) which shall be represented by
93 UP TO THREE voting delegates, one a
94 pastor, one a lay delegate and the third
95 by a commissioned minister from one of
96 the congregations within this group
97 (circuit). Groups (circuits) without a
98 commissioned minister may send an
99 additional lay or pastoral delegate.

100

101 **B. Advisory Members only are the**
102 **following:**

103

- 104 1. Pastors whose congregations do
105 not hold synodical membership
- 106 2. Pastors who are not called to
107 synodical member
108 congregations
- 109 3. Professors at the Synod's
110 educational institutions
- 111 4. Candidates for the office of the
112 ministry, for that of a teacher of
113 the Evangelical Lutheran
114 Church, for director of Christian
115 education, for director of
116 Christian outreach, for director of
117 family life ministry, for director of
118 parish music, for deaconess, for
119 parish assistant, or for certified
120 lay minister

121



2018 District Convention Resolution 18-06



1
2 **Resolution 18-06 - To Overrule**
3 **Board of Directors' May 2017**
4 **Resolution 12-14, re: Bylaw 7.1.2**
5 *Reference: Overture 07, Overture*
6 *08*
7
8 **WHEREAS**, the 2016 Convention
9 of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
10 Synod, in its Resolution 12-14
11 [*“Regarding the Right of an Accuser*
12 *to Appeal When a District President*
13 *or President of the Synod Fails to*
14 *Act or Declines to Suspend”*] and
15 according to Bylaw 7.1.2, deferred
16 its rightful and legislative authority
17 to the Synod’s Board of Directors
18 regarding the development of
19 ecclesiastical supervision bylaws;
20 and
21
22 **WHEREAS**, Resolution 12-14, in
23 accordance with Bylaw 7.1.2, set
24 forth a specific path and timeline for
25 consideration, negotiation and
26 counsel to be conducted with the
27 Council of Presidents, with any
28 proposed amendments to the bylaws
29 to be reviewed by the Commission
30 on Constitutional Matters and the
31 Commission on Handbook; and
32
33 **WHEREAS**, Resolution 12-14
34 states that the Commission on
35 Constitutional Matters in Op. 16-
36 2791 *“has indicated portions of the*
37 *expulsion processes of Synod’s*
38 *Bylaws are presently in an*
39 *unconstitutional state with respect*
40 *to Const. Art. XI B 1–3 and Const.*
41 *Art. XIII 2”*; and
42
43 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors,
44 acting under Bylaw 7.1.2 and at the

45 express direction of the 2016
46
47 Resolution 12-14, in May of 2017
48 adopted changes to the bylaws of the
49 Synod regarding ecclesiastical
50 supervision; and
51
52 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of
53 Synod defines clearly, precisely,
54 and fully the supervisory role of the
55 President of Synod, wherein the
56 President of Synod has *“the*
57 *supervision regarding the doctrine*
58 *and the administration of a. All*
59 *officers of the Synod; b. All such as*
60 *are employed by the Synod; c. The*
61 *individual district of the Synod; d. All*
62 *district presidents” (XI.B.1)*; and
63
64 **WHEREAS**, the President of Synod,
65 as ecclesiastical supervisor, is
66 limited in the exercise of said power,
67 assuming *“only such rights as have*
68 *been expressly conferred” (XI A.1)*
69 [*“The officers of the Synod must*
70 *assume only such rights as have*
71 *been expressly conferred upon*
72 *them by the Synod, and in*
73 *everything pertaining to their rights*
74 *and the performance of their duties,*
75 *they are responsible to the Synod.”*],
76 which are expressly conferred to be
77 *“the power to advise, admonish, and*
78 *reprove....conscientiously use all*
79 *means at his command to promote*
80 *and maintain unity of doctrine and*
81 *practice in all the districts of the*
82 *Synod” (XI.B.3)*; and
83
84 **WHEREAS**, Synod’s Constitution
85 expressly confers upon the District
86 Presidents the duty to *“exercise*
87 *supervision over”* their district’s
88 ministers and to *“visit and...hold*



2018 District Convention Resolution 18-06



89 *investigations in the congregations”*
90 *(XII.7), including the District*
91
92 Presidents being empowered “*to*
93 *suspend from membership”* their
94 district’s ministers (XII.8); and
95
96 **WHEREAS**, prior to the year 2016
97 and CCM Op. 16-2791, numerous
98 CCM opinions [to wit Ag. 1970,
99 Op.15-2750, 13-2669, 10-2581, 03-
100 2354, and 03-2338, A and C]
101 concluded that the President of
102 Synod’s scope of ecclesiastical
103 supervision does not include
104 supervision over individual workers
105 and congregations expressed in
106 Article XII.7,8; therefore, be it
107
108 **RESOLVED**, that Synod in
109 convention, as the ultimate
110 legislative body of Synod [*Bylaw*
111 *1.4.1: “The delegate convention of*
112 *the Synod is the legislative*
113 *assembly that ultimately legislates*
114 *policy, program, and financial*
115 *direction to carry on the Synod’s*
116 *work on behalf of and in support of*
117 *the member congregations. It*
118 *reserves to itself the right to give*
119 *direction to all officers and agencies*
120 *of the Synod. Consequently, all*
121 *officers and agencies, unless*
122 *otherwise specified in the Bylaws,*
123 *shall be accountable to the Synod*
124 *for all their actions, and any*
125 *concerns regarding the decisions of*
126 *such officers or agencies may be*
127 *brought to the attention of the*
128 *Synod in convention for appropriate*
129 *action. This provision does not*
130 *apply to specific member appeals to*
131 *the Concordia Plans, which has its*
132 *own appeal process for such*

133 *cases.”]* considers the following to
134 be steps to the resolution of this
135 matter; and be it further

136
137 **RESOLVED**, that changes,
138 subsequent to 2016 Convention
139 Resolution 12-14, made under
140 Bylaw 2.14 “Expulsion of
141 Congregations or Individuals from
142 Membership in the Synod,” under
143 Bylaw 2.15 “Expulsion of a District
144 President or Officer from
145 Membership in the Synod,” under
146 Bylaw 2.16 “Expulsion of a
147 President of Synod from
148 Membership in the Synod,” and
149 under Bylaw 2.17 “Expulsion of
150 Individuals from Membership in the
151 Synod as a Result of Sexual
152 Misconduct or Criminal Behavior,”
153 as a result of 2016 Convention
154 Resolution 12-14, as adopted by the
155 Board of Directors (May 2017) be
156 overruled and of no effect; and be it
157 further

158
159 **RESOLVED**, that Bylaws 2.14,
160 2.15, 2.16 and 2.17 be returned to
161 and replaced by the same
162 corresponding Bylaws as set forth in
163 the 2013 Synod Handbook; and be
164 it further

165
166 **RESOLVED**, that a Blue Ribbon
167 Task Force of seven members, with
168 four members appointed by the 35
169 District Presidents, three of whom
170 shall be District Presidents, and
171 three members appointed by the
172 President of Synod, be authorized
173 and formed to conduct a thorough
174 study of the ecclesiastical
175 supervision matter, including
176 Articles III, VI, VII (studies of



2018 District Convention Resolution 18-06



177 Articles VI and VII were previously
178 resolved by the 2010 Convention),
179 XI, XII, and XIII, and make
180 recommendations to the 2022

181
182 Synod Convention, including any
183 necessary revisions of
184 constitutional provisions, with the
185 purpose of evangelically resolving
186 the current difficulty and division
187 among us; and be it further

188
189 **RESOLVED**, that all relevant CCM
190 opinions such as 16-2791, 16-2793,
191 16-2794, 16-2797, 17-2822, 17-
192 2828 and 17-2836 be placed in
193 abeyance until the 2022 Convention
194 and any necessary action at the
195 2022 convention; and be it further

196
197 **RESOLVED**, that Synod in
198 convention affirm the powers
199 provided to the Synod President “*to*
200 *advise, admonish and*
201 *reprove...conscientiously use all*
202 *means at his command to promote*
203 *and maintain unity of doctrine and*
204 *practice in all the districts of the*
205 *Synod*” do not include direct
206 supervisory responsibility over
207 individual members of Synod, since
208 such individuals are already under
209 the ecclesiastical supervision of
210 District Presidents; and be it finally

211
212 **RESOLVED**, that the convention
213 pray for peace and harmony in the
214 Synod as it moves forward in
215 mission and ministry.
216



2018 District Convention Resolution 18-07



1
2 **Resolution 18-07 - To Overrule CCM**
3 **Opinion 14-2724**

4 *Reference: Overture 09*

5
6 **WHEREAS**, Article VII of the
7 Constitution of The Lutheran Church—
8 Missouri Synod states that in relation to
9 its members, the Synod is not an
10 ecclesiastical government exercising
11 legislative or coercive powers, and with
12 respect to the individual congregation’s
13 right of self-government is but an
14 advisory body; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, Article XIV of the
17 Constitution states that the Synod in
18 convention may adopt bylaws that are
19 consistent with and do not contradict
20 the Constitution of the Synod, which
21 controls and supersedes such bylaws
22 and all other rules and regulations of the
23 Synod; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, 2010 Convention Res. 8-
26 32-B encourages the Synod to study
27 Article VII of the Constitution, including
28 study of “Congregations and Synod,
29 Background Material on the Advisory
30 Nature of the LCMS” along with
31 opinions of the Commission on
32 Constitutional Matters related to this
33 topic (including CCM Opinion O9-2573
34 listed in a “Whereas” paragraph in
35 Resolution 8-32-B); and

36
37 **WHEREAS**, 1983 Synod Res. 5-10-A in
38 a “Resolved” clause states that The
39 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
40 reaffirms that its synodical polity is
41 essentially and principally
42 congregational in nature; and

43
44 **WHEREAS**, CCM Opinion O9-2573
45 states in part that “. . . there is a

46
47 common understanding that a
48 congregation exercises its self-
49 government . . . in carrying out . . . its
50 own ministry programs and financial
51 affairs . . .;” and

52
53 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 3.8.3 deals
54 only with who has authority to send
55 ministers of religion into Synod foreign
56 mission fields (prior bylaws have been
57 careful not to restrict congregational
58 activity relating to whom congregations
59 could send funds overseas, and nothing
60 in the current bylaws restrict or could
61 restrict the right of member
62 congregations to (a) fund any ministries
63 in foreign countries, or (b) send/fund
64 congregation members for service with
65 any organizations seeking to share the
66 Gospel); and

67
68 **WHEREAS**, 1983 Res. 5-37 amending
69 the bylaws only dealt with who on behalf
70 of Synod as a whole could send
71 missionaries at the expense of the
72 Synod and where the restriction
73 applied, it being a sending bylaw only,
74 clearly not applicable to congregations
75 in any event; and

76
77 **WHEREAS**, there is no Constitution or
78 bylaw provision restricting the right of a
79 member congregation to support any
80 mission organization or effort doing
81 work in foreign areas; and

82
83 **WHEREAS**, CCM Opinion 14-2724
84 states in part, “Congregations may not
85 send funds to mission societies and
86 non-Synod entities for work in foreign
87 areas without taking into consideration
88 policies developed and determined for
89 this purpose by the Board of

90



2018 District Convention Resolution 18-07



91
92 International Mission as the only
93 sending agency;” therefore be it
94
95 **RESOLVED**, that CCM Opinion 14-
96 2724 be overruled, be declared null and
97 void and of no effect insofar as it
98 restricts the congregational right of self-
99 government to fund and participate in
100 such foreign mission activity as it
101 deems correct and appropriate; and be
102 it finally
103
104 **RESOLVED**, that the Pacific Southwest
105 District memorialize the Synod the
106 adoption of this Overture.
107



2018 District Convention Resolution 18-08



1
2 **Resolution 18-08 - To Provide**
3 **Regional Support for Our Concordia**
4 **Colleges and Universities**
5 *Reference: Overture 11*
6
7 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—
8 Missouri Synod has been blessed by
9 our Concordia Colleges and
10 Universities for more than 100 years;
11 and
12
13 **WHEREAS**, all Concordia University
14 System (CUS) schools have renewed
15 their commitment to Lutheran higher
16 education by signing the Lutheran
17 Identity Statement; and
18
19 **WHEREAS**, our CUS colleges and
20 universities continue to provide the
21 highest quality of education and faith
22 development in the midst of a highly
23 competitive higher education market;
24 and
25
26 **WHEREAS**, all members of the boards
27 of regents of each school are to be
28 members of LCMS congregations; and
29
30 **WHEREAS**, for election purposes, the
31 Synod is divided into five geographic
32 regions; and
33
34 **WHEREAS**, each Concordia is located
35 in a unique part of the United States and
36 faces legal challenges, cultural
37 opportunities and economic diversity
38 which may differ from other Concordias;
39 and
40
41 **WHEREAS**, it is beneficial for regents
42 to have a vested geographic or
43 personal interest in the college or
44 university; therefore, be it
45

46
47 **RESOLVED**, that we give thanks to
48 God for the blessings we have received
49 through our CUS colleges and
50 universities; and be it finally
51
52 **RESOLVED**, that the Bylaws of the
53 Synod be amended to restrict Board of
54 Regents members elected by the
55 District or Synod in their respective
56 conventions to be limited to LCMS
57 members who reside in the region of the
58 college or university, or are alumni of
59 the respective institution.
60
61



2018 District Convention Resolution 18-09



1
2 **Resolution 18-09 – To**
3 **Respectfully Decline**
4 **Overtures 01 and 02**
5 *Reference: Overture 01,*
6 *Overture 02*
7
8 **WHEREAS**, the legality of
9 marijuana cultivation and use is
10 an ongoing debate in our states
11 and nation; and
12
13 **WHEREAS**, drug use and abuse
14 is an issue requiring a more
15 careful, thorough response than
16 may be effectively detailed in a
17 convention resolution; therefore,
18 be it
19
20 **RESOLVED**, that the 2018
21 Pacific Southwest District in
22 convention respectfully declines
23 Overtures 01 and 02.
24



2018 District Convention Resolution 18-10



1
2 **Resolution 18-10 - To Revoke the**
3 **Requirement that District Presidents**
4 **Acquire Approval of the Council of**
5 **Presidents to License New Licensed**
6 **Lay Deacons**

7 *Reference: Convention Workbook*

8
9 **WHEREAS**, Resolution 13-02A of the
10 2016 Synodical Convention enabled
11 many Licensed Lay Deacons (LLD) to
12 become Specific Ministry Pastors by
13 colloquy, revoked the LLD designation
14 from many who did not qualify, and
15 allowed LLDs to continue to be licensed
16 and deployed when the needs of
17 congregations require it; and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, Resolution 13-02A
20 requires that district presidents license
21 men as LLDs only with the approval of
22 the national body of the Council of
23 Presidents (COP); and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, This new requirement
26 adds a layer of bureaucracy and
27 increases the administrative workload
28 for both individual district presidents as
29 well as the COP; and

30
31 **WHEREAS**, This requirement transfers
32 ministry decisions from individual
33 district presidents, who know the needs
34 of local congregations and the
35 availability regional ministry resources
36 to a larger, distant group which may not;
37 and

38
39 **WHEREAS**, This requirement can add
40 to an atmosphere of distrust within the
41 Synod; and

42
43 **WHEREAS**, This requirement may
44 have the effect of reducing the number
45

46
47 of LLDs available to serve
48 congregations in need, thereby
49 increasing the number of congregations
50 which may not be able to find approved
51 workers; therefore be it

52
53 **RESOLVED**, That the Pacific
54 Southwest District in Convention
55 memorialize the 2019 Synodical
56 Convention to revoke the requirement
57 of Resolution 13-02A that district
58 presidents must acquire the approval of
59 the Council of Presidents to license new
60 Licensed Lay Deacons when the needs
61 of the Congregations require it for
62 ministry to continue in that place.

63