

**“Go into all the world and
proclaim the Gospel to the
whole creation.”**

(Mark 16:15)

**32nd Convention of the
Montana District LCMS**

June 11-14, 2012

Billings, Montana

Proceedings

Convention Schedule

Billings, Montana

June 11-14, 2012

“Go Into All the World and Proclaim the Gospel to the Whole Creation”

(Mark 16:15)

Monday- June 11

7:30 am	Committee Chairmen and Secretaries Orientation
8:00	Registration
9:00	Opening Devotions (In Committees)
9:15	Floor Committees meet (President visits)
3:45	Gospel of Mark (Session # 1)
5:00	Introduce Staff
5:10	Closing prayer
7:00 pm	Opening Worship- Trinity Lutheran Church- Rev. Daniel Preus, Preacher

Tuesday- June 12

8:00	Opening Devotions (Pastor James Hageman)
8:15	Committee 7 – Registration and Credentials
8:20	Orientation- Parliamentary procedures
8:35	Convention Schedule
8:40	District President’s Report and Address
9:10	Election Committee
9:20	Introduction of all nominees to all offices
9:35	Report of Synodical Representative (Witness, Mercy, Life Together)
10:15	Welcome of new members and congregation of District
10:30	Gospel of Mark (Session # 2)
11:50	Closing Prayer
11:55	Noon Recess
1:15	Opening Devotions (Pastor Steve Schlund)
1:30	Synodical Representative (Video)
2:00	Synodical Representative (Question and Answer)
2:30	Break
3:00	Lutheran Malaria Initiative
3:10	Committee # 1- Missions/Evangelism
4:05	Committee # 2- Indian/Campus/Deaf/Youth
5:00	Closing Prayer
5:15	Advisory delegates meet with Secretary to elect Synodical Convention Delegate (Con. XII .B, Bylaw 3.1.3.1)

Wednesday June 13

8:00	Opening Devotions (Pastor Mark Cutler)
8:15	Gospel of Mark (Session # 3)
9:30	Committee # 3- Stewardship/Human Care
10:05	Break
10:20	Committee # 4- Education/Communication/Schools

11:00	Committee # 5- Administration/Special
11:45	Closing prayer
11:50	Committees meet
12:00	Noon recess
1:15	Opening Devotions (Pastor Ray Larson)
1:30	Committee # 1 Missions/Evangelism
2:10	Committee # 2 Indian/Campus/Deaf/Youth
2:55	Committee # 3 Stewardship/Human Care
3:25	Break
3:40	Committee # 4 Education/Communication/Schools
4:10	Committee # 5 Administration/Special
4:45	Closing Prayer
6:30	Banquet - Recognitions - Square Dance

Thursday June 14

8:00	Opening Devotions (Rev. Jason Menagh)
8:15	Gospel of Mark (Session # 4)
9:15	Committees as needed
10:00	Recess
10:15	Committees as needed
10:55	Committee # 7 Registration/Credentials– final report
11:00	Closing Worship- Memorial, Installations (Pastor Doug Thompson)

VOTING DELEGATES

Congregation Name	City	Pastoral Delegate	Lay Delegate
Redeemer/ Faith	Anaconda/ Boulder	Vacant – Non-Calling	Gary Donahue
Holy Trinity/ Grace	Belgrade Three Forks	Vacant-Calling	Bob Stulc
Christ the King	Billings	Ryan Wendt	Erich-Emil Gabriel
Hope/Our Redeemer	Billings	Robert Lane	Dean Edmiston
Mt. Olive/ St. Paul	Billings/ Roundup	Mark Grunst	Derwood Mercer
Our Savior	Billings	Ken Zoeller	Keith Myhre
Trinity	Billings	Timothy Richholt	Brent Carstens
First	Bozeman	Sam Grayl	Roger Van Andel
St. Paul/St. John	Bridger/Belfry	Paul Shupe	Merrill Pfeifer
St. Mark/Zion	Butte/Whitehall	Chris Wareham	Leonard Koehler
Our Redeemer	Columbia Falls	Matthew Nelson	Donald Martinus
Mt. Calvary	Colstrip	John Sias	Irene Nelson
Church at Creston	Creston	Darold Reiner	Randy Evans
Crow Lutheran Ministry	Crow Agency	Daniel Jacobs	Bobbie Schenderline
St. John	Deer Lodge	Robert Mitchell	Jerry Roseliep
Shepherd of the Hills	Ennis	Kenneth Stensrud	Steven Millhouse
Holy Cross	Eureka	Christopher Tabbert	Chris Moen
St. John/Zion	Fairfield/Power	Vacant – Calling	Doug Ekegren
Concordia/Trinity	Forsyth/Hysham	Marcus Baikie	Judy Blakesley
First	Fort Benton	Wade Harr	
Faith/ Trinity/Trinity	Glasgow/ Wolf Point/Plentywood	John Vallie	Brad Persinger
Our Savior/Grace	Glendive/Fallon	James Hageman	Gil Kaul
Peace/Christ	Great Falls	Steven Schlund	Kenneth Meske

Congregation Name	City	Pastoral Delegate	LayDelegate
Trinity	Great Falls	Gerald Paul	Emil Neumann
Grace	Hamilton	Vern Sandersfeld	Lyle Kohs
Redeemer	Hardin	James Koss	Dave Chepulis
Trinity	Harlowton	Terry Forke	Bruce Wegner
St. Paul/Zion	Havre/Chinook	Mark Schultz	Randy Martin
First	Helena	Larry Miller	Gerald Michel
Trinity	Kalispell	Mark Cutler	Arlan Kohl
Circle of Life	Lame Deer	Dennis Bauer	Suzette Cain
St. John	Laurel	Arlo Pullmann	Shawn Hackmann
St. Paul/ Trinity/Our Savior	Lewistown/ Stanford/Denton	Eric Stinnett	Ann Heintz
St. John	Libby	Steven Thomas	Ron Morris
Trinity/ Trinity	Miles City/ Rock Springs	Howard Schreibeis	Dwayne Taylor
First	Missoula	David Renfro	John Mandler
Messiah	Missoula	David Hasselbrook	Marcus Williams
St. Paul	Park City	Douglas Thompson	Rudy Meinhardt
Mt. Calvary/Zion	Polson/St Ignatius	Kyle Whaley	Ardith Johnson
St. Paul	Ronan	Timothy Gordish	Frank Delgado
Shepherd	Salmon, ID	Kevin Peterson	BJ Mayer
Holy Cross/ Faith	Seeley Lake/ Condon	Erik Iverson	Glenn Stocking
Trinity/St. John	Sidney/Fairview	David Warner	Madeline Warner
Our Savior	Stevensville	David Carver	Bill Lawrence
Trinity	Superior	Raymond Wiegert	Bill Melhorn
Shepherd of the Valley	Thompson Falls	Vacancy – Calling	William Beck
St. Peter	Whitefish	James Maxwell	Bobbie Jo Llewellen
Concordia	Williston	Jay Reinke	Robert Guderjohn

Advisory Delegates

Ordained Ministers

Rev. Mark Christensen
Rev. Gale Everson
Rev. David Preus
Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht
Rev. Park Timber

Certified Lay Ministers

Jerry Schreck, Trinity, Kalispell

Emeriti Ministers

Rev. Gilbert Berninghaus
Rev. William Bliese
Rev. Eric Christiansen
Rev. Al Ebel
Rev. Arnold Fischer
Rev. Martin Kaarre
Rev. Carl Lehman
Rev. Raymond Larson
Rev. Bruce Linderman
Rev. Jason Menagh
Rev. Daniel Ondov
Rev. Herbert Schiefelbein
Rev. Kent Stenzel
Rev. Dr. Richard Thompson
Rev. Myron Wackler
Rev. Robert Weishoff

Candidate/Non-Candidate Status

Rev. Donald Schneider
Rev. Tim Wilmot

Commissioned Ministers:

Rebecca Braaten, Trinity, Kalispell
Joann Cutler, Trinity, Kalispell
Lynne Erger, Trinity, Billings
JeAnne Marie Faris, Kalispell
Kenneth Holste, Trinity, Kalispell
Becky Sue Kern, Trinity, Kalispell
Thomas Kosche, Trinity, Billings
Debbie Lee, Great Falls
Ted Loomans, Trinity, Billings
Kristin McCauley, Trinity, Kalispell
Laura McCoy, Trinity, Billings
Kathryn Minarik, Trinity, Billings
Suzanne Rasmussen, Trinity, Kalispell
Amy Schleicher, Trinity, Billings
Jason Schleicher DCE, Trinity, Billings
Lisa Steinbrenner, Trinity, Kalispell
Richard Thomas, Trinity, Billings
David Topp, Trinity, Kalispell

Emeriti Commissioned Ministers

Ruth Endicott, Deaconess
Steve Endicott, DCE
Ardith Johnson

Melody Johnson
Judith Van Andek
Roger VanAndel
Darrell VanLuchene
Sue Zan VanLuchene
WilhelmWegner

Board of Director Members

Rev. Terry Forke, President
Rev. Christopher Tabbert, First Vice-President
Rev. Howard Schreiber, Second Vice-President
Rev. Mark Schultz - Secretary
Rev. Mark Grunst
Johnny "Crow" Buck
Frank Delgado
Mark Scott
David Topp
Harry Trangmoe

Treasurer: Steve Hildenburg

Chaplains on Active Duty: Marc DiConti, US Navy

Lay Members of MT District Nominations & Elections

Roy Arves
Kale Bauer
Betty Jane Mayer

District Convention Assignments

June 11-14, 2012

Billings

"Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation"
Mark 16:15

Committee # 1 Missions, Evangelism

Chairman: David Warner *Secretary:* Marcus Baikie
Pastor: Dennis Bauer, James Hageman, James Maxwell, David Renfro, Steve Thomas, Kyle Whaley.
Commissioned: Joan Cutler, Kathryn Minarik, Jason Schleicher.
Lay: Brent Carstens, Arlan Kohl, Lyle Kohs, Bill Lawrence, Randy Martin, Rudy Meinhardt, Ron Morris, Bob Stulc, Dwayne Taylor.
Advisory: Mark Nicolaus, Park Timber.
BOD: Frank Delgado.
Resource: Ray Larson, Darold Reiner.

Committee #2 Indian, Campus, Deaf, Youth

Chairman: Kevin Peterson *Secretary:* Bob Lane
Pastor: David Carver, Larry Miller, Tim Richholt, Doug Thompson, Ray Wiegert.
Commissioned: Amy Schleicher, Lisa Steinbrenner, Richard Thomas.
Lay: Doug Ekegren, Randy Evans, Bobbi Jo Lewellen, Emil Neumann, Brad Persinger, Merril Pfeifer, Madeline Warner, Bruce Wegner.
Advisory: David Preus.
BOD: Harry Trangmoe.
Resource: Dan Jacobs, John Sias, Steve Schlund, Nathan Talafuse.

Committee # 3 Stewardship, Human Care, LCEF/Foundation

Chairman: Matthew Nelson *Secretary:* Mark Grunst
Pastor: Mark Cutler, David Hasselbrook, Bob Mitchell, Howard Schreibeis, John Vallie, Ken Zoeller.
Commissioned: Kristin McCauley, Laura McCoy, Lynne Erger.
Lay: William Beck, Judy Blakesley, Roger Castel, Dean Edmisten, Ann Heintz, Keith Meske, Bobbi Schenderline, Marcus Williams.
Advisory: Mark Christensen.
BOD: Crow Buck.
Resource: Kevin Peterson, Vern Sandersfeld, Jeff Snyder.

Committee # 4 Education, Communications, Schools

Chairman: Vern Sandersfeld *Secretary:* Steve Schlund
Pastor: Tim Gordish, Gerald Paul, Paul Shupe, Eric Stinnett, Christ Wareham.
Commissioned: Thomas Kosche, Debbie Lee, Ted Loomans.
Lay: Gary Donahue, Robert Guderjohn, Shawn Hackmann, Gil Kaul, John Mandler, Steven Millhouse, Chris Moen, Irene Nelson, Suzette Cain.
Advisory: Gale Everson
BOD: David Topp
Resource: Patricia Stricker, Betty Bagley

Committee # 5 Administration, Special overtures

Chairman: Jay Reinke *Secretary:* John Sias

Pastor: Sam Grayl, Wade Harr, Arlo Pullmann, Ken Stensrud, Chris Tabbert, Ryan Wendt.

Commissioned: JeAnne, Faris, Kenneth Holste, Becky Sue Kern.

Lay: Dave Chepulis, Erich-Emil Gabriel, Donald Martinus, Bill Melhorn, Derwood Mercer, Keith Myhre, Jerry Roseliep, Glenn Stocking, Roger Van Andel.

Advisory: Dan Rinderknecht.

BOD: Mark Scott

Resource: Terry Forke, Chris Tabbert, Howard Schreibeis

Committee # 6 Nominations and Elections

Chairman: Daniel Jacobs *Secretary:*

Pastor: Darold Reiner, James Koss

Commissioned: Suzanne Rasmussen

Lay: Roy Arves, B.J. Mayer, Kale Bauer

Committee # 7 Credentials, Registration

Chairman: Raymond Larson

Pastor: Mark Schultz

Commissioned: Rebecca Braaten

Lay: Leonard Koehler

Convention Chaplain: Pastor Chris Tabbert

Convention Reader: Pastor Arlo Pullmann

Convention Manager: Betty Bagley

Convention Minutes: Pastor Mark Schultz

Convention Pianist: Cindy Speed

Technical Table: Pastor Ryan Wendt, Heidi Sias, Thomas Kosche.

Montana District Treasurer: Steve Hildenburg

MINUTES OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT LCMS CONVENTION

Billings, Montana – June 11-14, 2012

**“Go Into All the World and Proclaim the Gospel to the Whole Creation”
(Mark 16:15)**

Monday - June 11

During the morning and early afternoon, the floor committees met. At 3:45 p.m. President Forke opened the convention with the invocation and opening prayers.

Gospel of Mark Bible Study – Session One (Mark 1:1 – 5:43). Rev. Arlo Pullmann read Mark 1:1–3:12 to the delegates. Under the general theme of “Go Into All the World and Proclaim the Gospel to the Whole Creation” (Mark 16:15), the delegates at each table discussed the reading by answering the three questions provided. After discussion, Rev. Pullmann read Mark 3:13–5:43 and the pattern with discussion questions was repeated.

At 4:50 p.m. President Forke ended the time of discussion and Bible Study. He then introduced to the convention delegates Steve Hildenburg, Montana District Treasurer and Betty Bagley, Montana District Administrative Assistant. After a few closing announcements, President Forke closed the opening session with prayer at 5:00 p.m.

The opening worship was held at Trinity Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m. with 4th Vice-President Daniel Preus preaching, Rev. Dan Rinderknecht as liturgist, and Rev. Timothy Richholt as lector.

Tuesday - June 12

Opening devotions were led by Convention Chaplain Rev. Christ Tabbert with Eastern Circuit Counselor Rev. James Hageman preaching on the theme “Go” from Mark 16:15.

Committee #7 – Registration and Credentials Report

Rev. Ray Larson reported 42 voting pastor delegates, 48 voting lay delegates, and 27 advisory delegates.

President Forke explained some parliamentary procedures to the delegates to facilitate their convention work.

Moved and seconded to adopt the agenda in the convention workbook pages 4-6. Motion carried.

District President’s Report

District President Forke gave his report and address to the convention following the theme of Proclaiming the Gospel in the 21st Century. A copy of his address will be included in the Convention Proceedings report.

Committee 6 – Nominations and Elections Committee

Rev. Dan Jacobs, chairman, directed the delegates to pages 95-96 of the convention workbook and then introduced those who have been nominated to the various offices – President, Vice-President, BOD members, etc.

After those introductions, the first order of business was the election of District President – the nominees were Rev. Terry Forke and Rev. Dr. John Sias. The ballots were distributed and the delegates voted.

President Forke introduced Rev. Ryan Wendt and thanked him for his work in setting up and managing the AV, computers, and various other electronics for the convention.

Report of Synodical Representative

President Forke introduced Rev. Daniel Preus, 4th VP of the LCMS, who brought a report to the convention following the theme of “Witness, Mercy, Life Together”, focusing on “Witness”.

Committee 6 – Nominations and Elections Committee

Rev. Jacobs reported that the vote for District President is as follows: Rev. Terry Forke-78; Rev. Dr. John Sias-9; 1-blank. **President Forke has been re-elected as District President.** He asked for additional nominations from the floor for 1st Vice-president of the District. No additional nominations were received. The committee was dismissed to prepare the ballots for First-Vice-President of the District.

President Forke welcomed new members of the Montana District since the last District convention (2009). Pastors: Rev. Kyle Whaley; Rev. David Carver; Rev. Dr. John Sias; Rev. Gerald Paul; Rev. Steven Thomas; Rev. Marcus Baikie; Rev. Paul Shupe. Teacher: Joann Cutler. He also introduced William Beck, lay-representative from Shepherd of the Valley-Thompson Falls (our newest District congregation). He introduced Rev. Mark Nicolaus, Missionary at Large, called by the District, who worked in the Thompson Falls area for the last 2+ years.

Gospel of Mark Bible Study – Session Two (Mark 6:1 – 9:50). Rev. Arlo Pullmann read that section in two parts: Mark 6:1–7:37 and Mark 8:1–9:50. The delegates at each table discussed the questions provided after each section.

President Forke spent a few minutes acquainting the delegates with the Montana District website and also made a few announcements.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee

The ballots were distributed and the delegates were instructed to vote for one of the following for First Vice-President of the District: Rev. Mark Grunst; Rev. Dan Rinderknecht; Rev. Howard Schreibeis; Rev. Chris Tabbert; Rev. Ryan Wendt.

The delegates recessed for lunch following a closing prayer by Rev. James Hageman at 11:45 a.m.

Opening Devotions for the afternoon Session were led by Convention Chaplain Rev. Chris Tabbert with Central Circuit counselor Rev. Steven Schlund preaching.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee

Chairman Rev. Dan Jacobs announced the results of the 1st Ballot for 1st VP. Rev. Mark Grunst – 18; Rev. Dan Rinderknecht – 15; Rev. Howard Schreibeis – 13; Rev. Chris Tabbert – 35; Rev. Ryan Wendt – 5. Since no one had received a majority of the votes cast, the committee distributed the 2nd ballot and the delegates were instructed to vote for one of the following: Rev. Mark Grunst; Rev. Dan Rinderknecht; Rev. Howard Schreibeis; Rev. Chris Tabbert.

Report of Synodical Representative – part 2

The original plan was for Rev. Daniel Preus to show a video entitled “Witness, Mercy, Life Together” from LCMS President Matthew Harrison and then field questions from the delegates. However, due to a technical glitch, Rev. Daniel Preus fielded questions at this point to give time to work on the technical problem with the video.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee

Rev. Jacobs reported the results of the second ballot for 1st Vice-President. The vote totals were as follows: Rev. Mark Grunst – 16; Rev. Dan Rinderknecht – 9; Rev. Howard Schreibeis – 10; Rev. Chris Tabbert – 50. He announced that **Rev. Christopher Tabbert has been re-elected as 1st Vice-president of the Montana District.**

The delegates were then instructed to nominate by paper ballot one pastor to serve as 2nd Vice-President. The three men receiving the highest number of nominations will comprise the ballot.

Report of Synodical Representative (cont’d)

Rev. Daniel Preus showed the video entitled “Witness, Mercy, Life Together” as the final part of his report to the convention.

Lutheran Malaria Initiative

President Forke introduced Director of LMI for LCMS Martha Mitkos. She talked with the delegates about the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. The administrative costs are being covered by a grant from the UN, so 100% of the offerings given go directly to fighting malaria in Africa (bed nets, medicine, and training). She stated that the District has given \$18,000 to LMI to date. President Forke presented her with a check from the opening service offering in the amount of \$1,212.82.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee

Rev. Jacobs announced the results of the nominating process. The three who received the most nominations are Rev. Mark Grunst; Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht; Rev. Howard Schreibeis. Rev. Mark Grunst and Rev. Howard Schreibeis indicated their willingness to serve. The committee asked for time to determine whether or not Rev. Rinderknecht is willing to serve. The committee was dismissed to prepare the ballots.

Committee #1 – Missions/Evangelism

Rev. David Warner read three resolutions from the committee (1-01, 1-02, 1-03).

Resolution 1-01 TO ADOPT WITNESS, MERCY, LIFE TOGETHER AS MISSION AND MINISTRY EMPHASIS FOR SYNOD. Moved and seconded. It was moved and seconded to amend

Res. 1-01 by striking in line 19 the words “congregations, circuits, and”. Motion carried. By friendly amendment the singular “emphasis” was changed to “emphases”. The amended motion was ADOPTED.

Resolution 1-02 was presented. **TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF ALL CONGREGATIONS REGARDLESS OF DEMOGRAPHICS AND SIZE.** Moved and seconded. In the second Whereas, “III” was changed to “VII” by friendly amendment. After discussion Res. 1-02 was ADOPTED.

Resolution 1-03 TO ENCOURAGE EACH CONGREGATION IN UNDERSTANDING AND PURSUING ITS CALLING WITHIN GOD’S MISSION Moved and seconded.

One delegate raised a point of order asking whether the resolutions from the committees could be printed in addition to having them on the screen. It was decided to print one resolution per table. Resolution 1-03 ADOPTED.

Committee #2 – Indian/Campus/Deaf/Youth

Resolution 2-01 TO AFFIRM AND ASCERTAIN THE USE OF TRINITARIAN BAPTISM

Moved and seconded. It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by striking “and ascertain” in the title of the resolution. It was moved and seconded to amend the amendment to retain the words “and ascertain” and add “the use of”. Amendment ADOPTED. The amended amendment ADOPTED. Moved to amend the whereas after “Trinitarian baptism” by adding “is valid when water and our Lord’s words of institution are used within the confession of a congregation that confesses the Triune God” and striking “is valid when administered by a congregation that confesses the Triune God”. Moved to amend the amendment by substituting “within the confession of” for “by a congregation that confesses”. The delegates agreed to accept that change by friendly amendment. After discussion the amendment CARRIED. After further discussion **Resolution 2-01** was ADOPTED.

Resolution 2-02 TO ENCOURAGE THE TEACHING AND PRACTICE OF CLOSED COMMUNION Moved and seconded. After much discussion, the previous question was moved and seconded. Motion to end debate CARRIED. Resolution 2-02 was ADOPTED.

Resolution 2-03 TO DECLINE OVERTURE 2-02. Moved, seconded, and ADOPTED.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee

The committee distributed the ballots for 2nd Vice-President. The delegates were instructed to vote for one of the following: Rev. Mark Grunst; Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht; Rev. Howard Schreibeis.

The convention recessed for the evening following a closing prayer by Rev. Steven Schlund.

In a meeting convened by the District Secretary after the convention recessed on Tuesday afternoon, Principal Dave Topp was selected from the commissioned ministers of the District to serve as an advisory delegate to the Synodical Convention in 2013. Rev. Richard Thompson was selected from the advisory ordained ministers and specific ministry pastors to serve as an advisory delegate to the Synodical Convention in 2013.

Wednesday - June 13

Opening devotions were led by Convention Chaplain Rev. Chris Tabbert with Flathead Circuit Counselor Rev. Mark Cutler preaching on the theme “Proclaim” from Mark 16:15.

President Forke introduced Cindy Speed who is playing the hymns for the opening devotions during most of the convention and he also introduced Ted Kober who played the organ for the opening service and will be playing the hymns on Thursday. The delegates expressed their appreciation with a round of applause.

Gospel of Mark Bible Study – Session Three (Mark 10:1–13:37). Rev. Arlo Pullmann read that section in two parts: Mark 10:1–11:33 and Mark 12:1–13:37. The delegates followed the same format after each reading by discussing the questions provided after each section.

After some announcements, President Forke called Committee #6 to come forward.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections Committee

Rev. Jacobs reported the results of the vote for Second Vice-President as follows: Rev. Mark Grunst–22; Rev. Dan Rinderknecht–19; Rev. Howard Schreibeis–44. **Rev. Howard Schreibeis has been elected 2nd Vice-President of the Montana District.**

It was moved, seconded and carried to cast a unanimous ballot for **Rev. Mark Schultz as District Secretary.**

It was moved, seconded, and carried to cast a unanimous ballot to ratify the slate of Circuit Counselors as follows:

**Eastern Circuit – Rev. James Hageman; Southern Circuit – Rev. Douglas Thompson;
Central Circuit – Rev. Steven Schlund; Divide Circuit – Rev. Jason Menagh;
Western Circuit – Rev. Raymond Larson, Sr.; Flathead Circuit – Rev. Matthew Nelson**

Committee Chairman Jacobs announced those Pastors who had been nominated for the pastor member of the BOD: Rev. Mark Grunst; Rev. David Renfro; Rev. Dr. John Sias; Rev. David Warner. Committee Chairman Jacobs called for further nominations from the floor. Hearing none, ballots were distributed and the delegates were instructed to vote for one of the above.

Committee #3 – Stewardship/Human Care

Resolution 3-01 TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE DEFENSE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE.

The committee played a 5-minute video clip of LCMS President Harrison’s testimony to Congress in February regarding religious liberty guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution. After the video, it was moved and seconded to adopt Res 3-01. The delegates agreed by friendly amendment to change “congregational” to “Congressional” in line number 11 and added periods to the abbreviation US in line 6. Resolution 3-01 ADOPTED.

Resolution 3-02 TO COMMEND THE USE OF RESOURCES WHICH ADDRESS AND INFORM ABOUT LIFE ISSUES.

The committee played a clip of the video “Blood Money” after which it was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 3-02. It was moved and seconded to amend the second to last resolve by adding “opposing physician assisted suicide” after the word “work”.

Amendment CARRIED. It was moved and seconded to amend line 31 by adding the words “state and” after “urging” and “senators and” before the word “representatives”. Amendment CARRIED. A number of friendly amendments were suggested and agreed upon by the delegates. After a prayer by Rev. Cutler, Res 3-02 was ADOPTED.

After a 15-minute break, President Forke called Committee 6 to the podium.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections

Rev. Jacobs announced the results of the voting for pastor member of the BOD. Rev. Mark Grunst–16; Rev. David Renfro–16; Rev. Dr. John Sias–31; Rev. David Warner–22. The delegates were instructed to vote for one of the following: Rev. Dr. John Sias or Rev. David Warner.

President Forke called Committee #4 to the podium.

Committee #4 – Education/Communication/Schools

Resolution 4-01 TO REQUIRE A HIGH STANDARD OF EDUCATION FOR ORDAINED

MINISTERS Moved and seconded. Moved and seconded to amend changing “direct” to “urge” in the first and last resolved. Amendment DEFEATED. After discussion, Resolution 4-01 ADOPTED.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections

Rev. Jacobs announced the results of the voting for pastor member of the BOD: Rev. Dr. John Sias – 40; Rev. David Warner - 42. **Rev. Warner is elected as pastor member of BOD.**

Lay Members of the District Board of Directors: The current nominees are Johnny Buck, Mt. Olive, Billings; Frank Delgado, St. Paul, Ronan; Jerry Roseleip, St. John, Deer Lodge; Mark Scott, Mt. Calvary, Polson; Harry Trangmoe, Our Savior, Glendive. There were no nominations from the floor. The delegates were instructed to vote for four.

President Forke called Committee #5 to the podium.

Committee #5 – Administration/Special

Prior to the introduction of Resolution 5-01 President Forke asked 1st VP Tabbert to take the chair.

Resolution 5-01 TO AMEND THE BYLAWS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT Moved and seconded. From the floor, President Forke explained the history and purpose for this resolution. Moved and seconded to amend it by inserting the following to the first Resolved: IN BYLAW 1.3.2, PARAGRAPHS J.1, K.1, AND L.1 (PP. 63-64), INSERT, AFTER “FIRST,” THE WORD “FULL.”. Motion CARRIED. Amended Resolution 5-01 ADOPTED.

Resolution 5-02 TO REVIEW AALC RELATIONSHIPS Moved and seconded. After much discussion, it was moved, seconded, and CARRIED to extend the orders of the day by 5 minutes. After further discussion, the previous question was moved and seconded. Motion CARRIED to end debate. Resolution 5-02 was ADOPTED.

The delegates recessed for lunch following a closing prayer by Rev. Mark Cutler at 11:50 a.m.

Opening Devotions for the afternoon Session were led by Convention Chaplain Rev. Chris Tabbert with Western Circuit counselor Rev. Raymond E. Larson, Sr. preaching on the theme “The Gospel” (Mark 16:15).

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections

Rev. Jacobs announced the results of the voting for lay-members of the BOD: Johnny Buck–66; Frank Delgado–76; Jerry Roseleip–69; Mark Scott–62; Harry Trangmoe–54. **Johnny Buck, Frank Delgado, Jerry Roseleip, and Mark Scott are elected as lay-members of the BOD.**

It was moved, seconded, and CARRIED to cast a unanimous ballot for **Dave Topp to be the teacher Member of the BOD.**

Rev. Jacobs announced the nominations for Pastor members of the MT District Nominations and Elections committee as follows: Rev. James Koss; Rev. Daniel Jacobs; Rev. Darold Reiner. After asking for nominations from the floor, Rev. David Carver was nominated. The committee was dismissed to prepare the ballots.

President Forke called Committee #1 to the podium.

Committee #1 – Missions/Evangelism

Resolution 1-04 To Direct and Support a Priority for Mission Work in the Bakken Oil Boom Region. Moved, seconded, and ADOPTED.

President Forke called Committee #2 to the podium.

Resolution 2-04 TO COMMEND, ENCOURAGE, AND EXPLORE CAMPUS MINISTRY

Moved and seconded. Moved to amend line 47 by adding “in consultation with the local congregations” before the word “to”. Amendment CARRIED. Resolution 2-04 ADOPTED.

Resolution 2-05 TO REAFFIRM COMMUNION FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN CONGREGATIONS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD Moved and seconded. After discussion. Resolution 2-05 DEFEATED.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections

The committee distributed the ballots for pastor members of the District Nominations and Elections Committee. The delegates were instructed to vote for three of the following: Rev. James Koss; Rev. Daniel Jacobs; Rev. Darold Reiner; Rev. David Carver.

President Forke called the chairman of Committee #3 to the podium.

Resolution 3-03 TO AFFIRM THE TEACHING OF SIX DAY CREATION IN SYNODICAL SCHOOLS A number of friendly amendments were agreed upon by the delegates. Resolution 3-03 ADOPTED.

Resolution 3-04 TO ENCOURAGE THE SUPPORT OF THE SEMINARIES Moved and seconded. The delegates agreed on a couple of friendly amendments. After discussion, Resolution 3-04 was ADOPTED.

Resolution 3-05 TO FACILITATE PLACEMENT OF RETURNING MISSIONARIES was brought before the delegates. However, during the reading, the committee realized that the resolution

before the delegates was not the resolution that had come out of the committee. The chair of committee # 3 relinquished the podium to resolve the problem.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections

Rev. Jacobs reported the results of the elections for pastor members of the District Nominations and Elections Committee. Rev. James Koss–68 ; Rev. Daniel Jacobs–83; Rev. Darold Reiner–57; Rev. David Carver–47. **The members of the District Nominations and Elections Committee will be Rev. James Koss; Rev. Daniel Jacobs; Rev. Darold Reiner.**

It was moved, seconded, and carried to cast a unanimous ballot for **Suzanne Rasmussen as teacher member of the District Nominations and Elections Committee.**

Receiving no nominations from the floor, the committee distributed the ballots for lay- members of the District Nominations and Elections Committee. The delegates were instructed to vote for three of the following: Roy Arves; Kale Bauer; Ernie Hergett; BJ Meyer.

President Forke called Committee #4 to the podium.

Resolution 4-02 TO EMPHASIZE ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION IN REORGANIZATION OF DISTRICTS Moved and seconded. After discussion, Resolution 4-02 was ADOPTED.

Resolution 4-03 TO ENCOURAGE CHRISTIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS Moved and seconded. A friendly amendment was agreed upon by the delegates. Resolution 4-03 was ADOPTED.

Resolution 4-04 TO PROVIDE A RESOURCE TO EQUIP CHRISTIAN PUBLIC EDUCATORS WITH ALTERNATIVES TO THE EXCLUSIVE TEACHING OF EVOLUTION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOM Moved and seconded. The delegates agreed upon a friendly amendment for clarification purposes. Resolution 4-04 ADOPTED.

Resolution 4-05 TO SUPPORT THE LUTHERAN MALARIA INITIATIVE Moved and seconded. A friendly amendment in the resolved was offered: to add “members of those congregations, and called workers” in place of “individual members.” Res 4-05 ADOPTED.

President Forke called Committee 3 back to the podium.

Resolution 3-05 TO FACILITATE PLACEMENT OF RETURNING ORDAINED MISSIONARIES Moved and seconded. Moved and seconded to amend the final resolved by inserting the words “and timely” after the word “full.” Amendment carried. Resolution 3-05 ADOPTED.

Moved and seconded to dismiss Committee #3. Motion DEFEATED.

Break at 3:20 p.m.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections

Rev. Jacobs announced the results of the vote for lay- members of the District Nominations and Elections Committee: Roy Arves–63; Kale Bauer–65; Ernie Hergett–52; BJ Meyer–69.

Roy Arves; Kale Bauer; BJ Meyer were elected lay-members of the District Nominations and Elections Committee.

Moved and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for **Rev. Dr. John Sias to serve on the Committee for Convention Nominations of the Synod.** Receiving no nominations from the floor, the delegates were instructed to vote for either Rev. Kevin Peterson or Rev. Robert Lane as alternate delegate to the Committee for Convention Nominations of the Synod.

President Forke called Committee #5 back to the podium.

Resolution 5-03 TO STUDY THE DIVERSITY OF WORSHIP PRACTICES

IN THE MONTANA DISTRICT. By friendly amendment a resolved was added “that the president’s report be submitted to the 2015 District Convention” and to add “and Vice-Presidents” after “District President” in the first resolved. Resolution 5-03 ADOPTED.

Resolution 5-04 TO DECLINE RESPECTFULLY OVERTURES 5-04. Since **Overture 5-04 To review the Salaries of top Synodical Officers** was accidentally omitted from Convention Workbook, it was read in its entirety. Committee #5’s Resolution 5-04 was then read to the delegates. Moved and seconded. It was moved and seconded to recommit Res 5-04 to Committee #5. More discussion. Motion to recommit DEFEATED. Resolution 5-04 ADOPTED.

Committee #6 – Nominations and Elections

Rev. Jacobs announced that **Rev. Kevin Peterson was elected as the alternate member of the Committee for Convention Nominations of the LCMS.**

With the exception of Committee #7–Registration and Credentials which will give a final report on the closing day of the convention, President Forke dismissed the committees and thanked them for their work.

One delegate suggested the assembly stand and give thanks to President Forke for his good work as District President for the past three years and for a great job chairing the convention. The assembled delegates thanked him with applause.

The convention recessed at 4:30 p.m. following a closing prayer by Rev. Raymond E. Larson, Sr.

Thursday - June 14

President Forke made a few opening announcements. He then commended the delegates for their work and decorum during the convention, the good discussion, the well-argued opinions, and the loving manner in which they treated one another when dealing with the resolutions – even when they disagreed.

Gospel of Mark Bible Study – Session Four (Mark 14:1–16:20). After listening to Rev. Arlo Pullmann read each section (Mark 14:1–72 and Mark 15:1–16:20), the delegates discussed the questions provided.

A delegate brought the following resolution to the floor: **To Redirect District Funds to Support LCMS Seminaries** Moved and seconded. It was moved and seconded to amend line 34 after the word “seminaries” by adding “with the 2.5% for Concordia Theological Seminary-Ft. Wayne to be given to

the Alumni Matching Program until the \$150,000 goal is reached. When the goal is reached then the 2.5% is directed to the Concordia Theological Seminary-Ft. Wayne undesignated funds;" Amendment CARRIED. It was moved and seconded to amend line 26 to read "by giving an additional 5% instead of reducing the percentage given to Synod by the District." Amendment DEFEATED. After discussion, the previous question was moved and seconded. The motion to end debate CARRIED. The amended motion was DEFEATED.

President Forke asked if there is any further business to come before the convention. Hearing none, he asked Committee #7 to come to the podium.

Committee #7 – Registration and Credentials

Rev. Raymond E. Larson, Sr. gave the committee's final report as follows:

Seated pastoral voting delegates – 42

Seated Lay voting delegates – 48

Seated Advisory delegates – 26

Excused pastoral voting delegates – 7

Excused Lay voting delegates – 0

Excused Advisory delegates – 10

Unexcused pastoral voting delegates – 0

Unexcused Lay voting delegates – 0

Unexcused Advisory delegates – 0

President Forke dismissed Committee #7 with thanks and declared the 32nd Convention of the Montana District closed.

The convention concluded with the Closing Worship, following the Order of Matins with Rev. Chris Tabbert as liturgist and Southern Circuit Counselor Rev. Doug Thompson as preacher. The theme of the sermon: "Christ's Mission – Our Mission". 4th Vice-President of the LCMS Rev. Daniel Preus installed Rev. Terry Forke as District President and President Forke then installed of the officers and the others who were elected at this convention as part of the service.

Submitted by Rev. Mark A. Schultz,
District Secretary

ELECTED POSITIONS- MONTANA DISTRICT

2012-2015

President	Rev. Terry Forke
First Vice-President	Rev. Christopher Tabbert
Second Vice-President	Rev. Howard Schreibeis
Secretary	Rev. Mark Schultz

CIRCUIT COUNSELORS

Eastern	Rev. James Hageman
Southern	Rev. Douglas Thompson
Central	Rev. Steven Schlund
Divide	Rev. Jason Menagh
Western	Rev. Ray Larson
Flathead	Rev. Matthew Nelson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pastoral Representative	Rev. David Warner
Teacher Representative	Dave Topp
Lay Representative	Johnny Buck Frank Delgado Jerry Roseleip Mark Scott

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Pastoral Representative	Rev. James Koss Rev. Daniel Jacobs Rev. Darold Reiner
Teacher Representative	Suzanne Rasmussen
Lay Representative	Roy Arves Kale Bauer B.J. Mayer

COMMITTEE FOR CONVENTION NOMINATIONS OF THE SYNOD

Rev. Dr. John Sias
Rev. Kevin Peterson – alternate

**Presidential Address
32nd Convention
Montana District LCMS
Holiday Inn, Billings, Mt
June 11-14, 2012**

**“Go Into All the World and Proclaim the Gospel to the Whole Creation”
(Mark 16:15)**

I. Proclaiming the Gospel in the 21st Century

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. There may be many reasons for attending a District convention: a chance to meet old friends, an opportunity to hear good preaching, a desire to learn more about the church. I suspect that the chief reason you showed up for this convention is that you believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You believe it is the truth, and you believe that it should be proclaimed to the world. That is the convention theme, from Mark 16:15, “Go Into All the World and Proclaim the Gospel to the Whole Creation”.

In many ways proclaiming the Gospel is a timeless joy. The message always stays the same. In other ways proclaiming the Gospel in the 21st century presents challenges Christians may have never experienced. Let me outline three that I think you should spend some time considering.

A. Challenges to the proclamation of the Gospel.

1. Culture: For much of the history of this nation Christians have been cultural insiders. By that I mean that the Christian faith was thought of in a kindly way. Even if members of the community did not believe in Jesus they still respected the Church, its Pastors, and individual members. Many would have agreed that America is a Christian nation. The contributions of the Church to the general welfare of society were noted and applauded. There were even trappings of power accorded to the Church. Pastors and Bishops were considered to be leaders of their communities. They were asked to speak and even pray at community events. They were appointed to committees and boards because they were assumed to have some clout with their constituencies.

Today, many of these amenities have disappeared. Worse, the Christian faith is regularly mocked in film and print. Intellectuals bend over backward to explain that this is not a Christian nation. Public confessions of the faith often attract legal action. Pastors and Bishops are suspected instead of being respected.

This challenge must not be ignored. How will we proclaim the Gospel in a hostile environment?

2. Science: The modern world, where most of us grew up held to a theory of truth that is foreign to the latest generation. We grew up believing that an objective truth actually existed. Whether it was science or philosophy or religion asking the question the objective was to search out the truth, the reality, the answer. The post-modern world, we live in today, does not believe that truth actually exists. What passes for science and philosophy today is often understood only as a matter of perspective. Religion is summarily tossed onto the lazy susan of personal affinities. Most of you have heard someone say, “I’m not religious but I am spiritual.” That usually means that they have drunk deeply at the trough of individualism to the point that they have constructed their own spirituality. They do not believe they have found truth. They believe they have cobbled together something that pleases them.

This challenge must not be ignored. How will we proclaim the Gospel to a generation that does not believe in the existence of truth?

3. State: First amendment rights have been held dear by most Americans. The Church is not the least among them. The Church has used these rights to bolster its ability to proclaim the Gospel.

In a recent series of decisions, ranging from Health and Human Services telling the Church that it must provide for birth control under its insurance plans, to the refusal of the House of Representatives to support a bill that would ban abortion for the sake of gender selection, to the President of the United States publicly declaring that he supports marriage rights for homosexual couples, it appears that first amendment rights, at least as far as the Church is concerned are being re-examined.

This is a challenge that must not be ignored. How will we proclaim the Gospel if the state chooses to limit that proclamation?

B. The Gospel answers the challenges and the needs of mankind.

We live in a day where a large portion of the Church seems to have forgotten that the answer to these challenges, and indeed the answer to all of the problems of living in a sinful world are found in the Gospel. Entire confessions of faith, whole denominations are floundering, searching for answers to these challenges. Unfortunately, they are often looking in all the wrong places. Some are looking to money, some to technology, some to entertainment, some to corporate business principles and some to human nature. "If we only have enough money," "If we had the right technology," "If our worship is entertaining enough," "If we ran this congregation more like a business," "If we give the people what they want," we will survive. These are no answer.

Instead, this is what Jesus says, "Go Into All the World and Proclaim the Gospel to the Whole Creation". He tells us to proclaim the Gospel. This is Jesus' answer. Why would Jesus tell us to proclaim something that was not the answer?

1. Sin. Lots of things have changed. This hasn't changed, people are still sinners. No, we cannot do whatever we feel is right at the moment. God has established an active law. It condemns us to the point that we cannot save ourselves. Every human being has the same status before God, apart from the Gospel. We are sinners because we do not meet His standard of holiness.

2. There is only one Savior. Much has changed. This hasn't, there is and can be only one savior. No, there are not many paths to God, and a self-constructed "spirituality" is nothing more than narcissistic silliness. All the religions of the world cannot be true, because they contradict each. Christianity is unique because it alone proclaims that man cannot save himself by his behavior. We proclaim a savior, Jesus Christ.

3. God's love sends a Savior to save. The world has changed, but God hasn't. God is love. God so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. In this is love, not that we loved Him but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the expiation for our sin. Here the love of God is at work. Jesus Christ did not come to condemn the world but to save it. The love of God, demonstrated in the life, death, resurrection, ascension and return of Jesus is the answer to all of life's challenges.

C. We are commanded to proclaim.

1. Success? So we proclaim. Please note that God does not give us quotas, benchmarks, goals, or deadlines. He doesn't even give us a concise, 25 words or less, comprehensive, inspiring, mission statement. The life of faith, the life of the body of Christ is not about success.

2. Growth? Despite all the hoopla about Church Growth we must remember that God doesn't even tell us to grow the Church. In fact, He explicitly says that growth is His prerogative. Paul told the Corinthian congregation, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." Growth can become a harmful idolatry. We must be clear about God's command.

3. Proclaim. We are commanded to proclaim. The Gospel message stays the same. The applications, and to a degree even the method of proclaiming may change with the ages of this world. But, we have this command to speak the truth of the Gospel, boldly, courageously, in season and out of season, wherever and whenever He gives us leave.

II. Who is going?

A. Pastors

1. The Office of the Public Ministry. This text specifically refers to the office of ministry. This is not an office the Church created for its convenience. It is not optional. God created this office so that: there would be a seat of wisdom regarding the Word of God- (The title- elder); that there would reflection of the Father's love in Jesus- (The title- pastor); and a center of authority regarding the stewardship of the Gospel- (The title- overseer). The Lutheran Church recognizes the necessity of this office when it says in its Confessions, "It is taught among us that nobody should publicly teach or preach or administer the sacraments in the church without a regular call." (AC XIV)

2. Respect. This office is given little respect these days. Many, even some within our Confession seem intent on diminishing this office. If a layman, or a woman, or even someone with a different confession can get the job done, many seem to think that God's standards for the office should be relaxed. Further, it is common practice to feel that the Pastor is present to please the people, and if he doesn't then either he should leave, or the members will leave. Somehow we seem to have missed that what really suffers as a result of the current disrespect for the office, is the proclamation of the Gospel.

3. Proclamation. This office is given the responsibility to see to the proclamation of the pure Gospel. The Lutheran Church recognizes this when it says in its Confessions, "To obtain such faith God instituted the office of the ministry, that is, provided the Gospel and the sacraments. Through these, as through means, he gives the Holy Spirit, who works faith, when and where he pleases in those who hear the Gospel." (AC V) Yes, Pastors are going into the world to proclaim the Gospel.

B. People.

1. People. Pastors are not the only ones who are going to proclaim the Gospel. God gives the Pastor to a specific people. He gives the people to a specific Pastor. This arrangement exists not simply to give the Pastor someone to preach to, but for the sake of the proclamation. The people of God also live and speak the Gospel. Peter writes to the people of God, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (I Peter 2:9)

2. Partnership. Together Pastor and people proclaim the Gospel. Paul writes to the Philippian congregation, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you...because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." (Phil 1:3) This fellowship, this working side by side for the sake of the Gospel is a beautiful creation of God.

3. Vocation. God is at work in His people. Although the farmer grows the food, God is the one who gives us our daily bread. So, Luther says, it is as if God clothes, or masks Himself in His people to accomplish His work. God is at work in His people in their various vocations and stations in life. Through these vocations and stations in life God sees to it that the Gospel is proclaimed to all creation. The people of each congregation have far broader and more intimate access to the people of their community than does their Pastor.

C. Congregations.

1. Congregations. God gathers congregations. Congregations are not accidents, nor are they social gatherings of like-minded people. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Mt 18:20) Please note the passiveness of the gathering. The people are not gathering themselves. God gathers congregations for the sake of proclaiming the Gospel to all creation.

2. The Body of Christ. Congregations are a reminder that the Church is the body of Christ. There are many members of our congregations. No two members are precisely alike. This is by God's design. Each member, with his unique set of skills, abilities, talents, vocations and stations in life proclaims the

Gospel in a unique context. And yet, each member works as a part of the body, not as an individual on his own quest.

3. Resources. Congregations, then, proclaim in ways that individuals cannot. By gathering people together in a congregation God creates a pool of gifts that is greater than the sum of its parts. Congregations can make a public confession to their community in ways that are more effective than individual testimonies.

D. Synod

1. Human institution. Synods are human institutions. There is nothing in the Scripture about creating a synod. However, there is nothing that says the Church does not have the freedom to create a gathering of congregations that have the same confession of faith. As long as the Synod abides by the confession of the pure Word of God the human institution can serve the Church.

2. Proclamation. Synods work for the proclamation of the Gospel, not their own survival. The danger is that a Synod spends more time working for its own survival than it does for the sake of the proclamation of the Gospel. This is one reason that we have District and Synodical conventions. We want to make sure that our Synod stays on track of proclaiming the Gospel in its truth and purity.

3. Synod. The word synod means to walk together. So a synod is a gathering of congregations that walk together to see to some aspect of proclaiming the Gospel. Synods proclaim in ways that individuals and congregations cannot. But synods should not get caught in the trap of doing what congregations should be doing. There very limited purposes for a Synod. A synod should be doing what congregations cannot do by themselves. Examples of this work might be: Educating Pastors and Teachers, sending out missionaries, ecclesiastical supervision and large scale works of mercy. Each of these duties of a synod is undertaken as a means of assisting the Church to proclaim the Gospel.

III. Who is “the whole creation”?

A. Believers

1. Believers. Believers need to hear the proclamation of the Gospel. There are some voices in the Church today implying that proclaiming the Gospel to those who already know Jesus is not mission work. I disagree. Do believers need to hear the Word? Yes! Did Jesus send us to speak the Word to believers? Of course He did. This is part of the mission.

2. Pastors. Pastors are sent to proclaim to believers. God gives congregations to Pastors and Pastors to congregations. The believers in each congregation do need to hear the Word of God from their Pastor lest they fall away from the faith. The Word of the Gospel is the only thing that can sustain their faith.

3. People. God’s people are sent to proclaim to believers. God gathers congregations. One of the reasons He does this is so that His people can hear and see from each other the truth of the Gospel.

B. Unbelievers

1. Unbelievers. Of course, unbelievers need to hear the proclamation of the Gospel. Without the hearing of the Gospel that creates faith unbelievers are destined for hell. Yes, God did create a place of punishment for those who do not know Jesus. Remember we cannot save them. God does that work. He does use us to proclaim the Gospel to unbelievers.

2. Pastors. Pastors are sent to proclaim to unbelievers as well. It is possible that this fact has been given less emphasis than necessary. God does not give the Pastor only to a congregation, but, as

a prophet of God, Pastors are given to the communities in which they reside to proclaim the Gospel to all who can hear.

3. People. Likewise the people of God are sent to proclaim to unbelievers. Friends, neighbors, relatives, and co-workers all hear and see the Gospel proclaimed by the people of God. God gives His people to the world so that unbelievers can hear the Gospel and come to faith.

C. Neighbors

1. "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus was once famously asked, "Who is my neighbor?" The answer was a surprise to His hearers. Loving our neighbors does not simply mean being nice. In the final analysis, love means proclaiming the Gospel. The story of the good Samaritan suggests that our neighbor is the people that we really don't like very much. While this is true it is, at the same time, much broader than that.

2. Near. We normally think of our neighbor as people who are physically, emotionally, or even spiritually close to us. Yes, these are people who need to know the love of God in Christ Jesus. God sends us to bind the wounds and care for our neighbors who are close.

3. Far. In another sense those who are not "close" to us are also our neighbors. The Samaritan was not close to the wounded man in any way. Likewise, there are people in our communities, and the world who are not close to us. They may be of another race, ethnicity, intellectual or financial status. Sometimes these differences loom larger in our minds than their need to hear the Gospel. God sends us to bind the wounds and care for neighbors who are far away so that they can hear the Gospel.

IV. How will we know when we get there?

A. Faith.

1. The world's map. Sometimes we fall into the trap of using the world's map instead of the one provided by the Word of God. How do we know when we have gone into all the world and proclaimed the Gospel to the whole creation? The number of people in the pews is not the answer to the arrival at the goal. Paul writes to the Church at Corinth, "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." These gifts may help us determine the destination of our proclamation.

2. Faith. God calls us to be faithful. "Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." (Faithful) (1 Cor. 4:1) What good does a faulty proclamation do? None. Our first act of proclamation is to be a careful assessment that we are saying what Jesus told us to say, nothing more, and nothing less. Just as arriving at one's destination alive is essential to the journey, so proclaiming the pure Gospel that brings life, is essential to the mission.

3. He is Faithful. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful." (Heb. 10:23) We dare not think ourselves independent. The survival of the Church does not rest on our ability to be faithful. God is faithful. In His faithfulness He keeps us true to His Word. Thus we arrive, in His faithfulness, proclaiming the Gospel.

B. Hope.

1. Failure? We have examined only three challenges to the proclamation of the Gospel in the 21st century. There are countless others. It would be easy for us to become discouraged and lose hope. It is particularly tempting in Montana to think, "We are too small and too isolated to have much impact on the proclamation of the Gospel." I remind you that if you have proclaimed the Gospel in its purity there can be no chance of failure. The Word will do its work, when and where the Holy Spirit sees fit.

2. Hope. Our hope is not based on our ability to fulfill the mission. Our hope is based on the power of the Gospel to save. God promises that He is at work in that Word. We have arrived at the goal of the mission when our hope is placed not in ourselves but in His Word.

3. Risks. Fear a failure seems to drive a lot of our decisions regarding when, where and how we proclaim the Gospel. So, allow me to speak a word of freedom to you. On the basis of our hope in the power of the Gospel I encourage to reconsider how you evaluate risks for the sake of proclaiming the Gospel. I submit to you that risks should not be evaluated on the basis of probability of success, but on the value of the goal. Proclaiming the Gospel to believers and unbelievers is a very valuable goal. I plead with you to jettison the "We've never done it this way before." and the "This isn't going to work." approaches. It is acceptable to take some risks so that the Gospel can be heard. It is hope, to believe that when it is proclaimed it will work.

C. Love.

1. Power? There is considerable confusion about how God is at work in the two kingdoms of Church and State. The Church dare not evaluate its mission on the basis of power or influence in the world. God works through the state by the power of the sword. He works through the Church by the power of the Word. From time to time the state may flex its muscles in areas God does not intend, but the Church cannot be intent on the defeat of the state. Instead of power, the greatest gift God has given His people is love. Love is mightier than the sword.

2. Love. This is how God determined to work in the world, love. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. God knew what was best for us and sacrificed Himself on our behalf. Since this love is tied to a specific act of God in Christ Jesus, it cannot mean letting people do whatever they want to do. Love is strong. It is manifest in the proclamation of the Gospel. We cannot be in the mission without loving and we cannot love without being in the mission. Since God is love and since He is in His people we can be assured we have arrived.

3. Proclaimers. Jesus said, ""Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach, (proclaim) there also, for that is why I came out." (Mark 1:38) Jesus came to proclaim. Like teacher, like disciples. We have been sent out to proclaim. That happens in the context of love. That is why Jesus said, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35) You, dear brothers and sisters, can be confident that the God of love is at work in you as you go into all the world proclaiming the Gospel to all creation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

S.D.G.
Terry Forke
June 12, 2012

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-01

**Title of Resolution: TO ADOPT WITNESS, MERCY, LIFE TOGETHER AS MISSION
AND MINISTRY EMPHASES FOR SYNOD**

Action: ADOPTED as AMENDED

WHEREAS, AT THE 2010 SYNODICAL CONVENTION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD ADOPTED A PROCESS WHEREBY THE TRIENNIAL EMPHASIS IS ESTABLISHED BY SUGGESTIONS FORWARDED THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS AT THE CONGREGATIONAL LEVEL, THEN BY CIRCUIT FORUMS, THEN DISTRICT CONVENTIONS AND FINALLY THE SYNODICAL CONVENTION; AND

WHEREAS, NO TRIENNIAL EMPHASIS COULD BE ADOPTED AT THE 2010 SYNODICAL CONVENTION BECAUSE THIS PROCESS HAD BEEN NEWLY ESTABLISHED; AND

WHEREAS, THE SYNODICAL PRESIDENT AND HIS STAFF DEVELOPED *WITNESS, MERCY, LIFE TOGETHER*, AN EMPHASIS FOR THE 2010-2013 TRIENNIUM; AND

WHEREAS, DISTRICTS OF THE SYNOD ARE REQUIRED BY *BYLAW 4.2.1* TO SUBMIT MISSION AND MINISTRY EMPHASES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SYNODICAL CONVENTION; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT ASSEMBLED IN CONVENTION SUBMIT THE MISSION AND MINISTRY EMPHASES OF *WITNESS, MERCY, LIFE TOGETHER* FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SYNOD IN CONVENTION IN 2013 AS THE CONTINUED MISSION AND MINISTRY EMPHASES FOR THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD FOR THE 2013-2016 TRIENNIUM.

CHAIRMAN- REV. DAVID WARNER

SECRETARY- REV. MARCUS BAIKIE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-02

**Title of Resolution: TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF ALL
CONGREGATIONS REGARDLESS OF DEMOGRAPHICS AND SIZE**

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST HAS PROMISED, “AGAIN I SAY TO YOU, IF TWO OF YOU AGREE ON EARTH ABOUT ANYTHING THEY ASK, IT WILL BE DONE FOR THEM BY MY FATHER IN HEAVEN. FOR WHERE TWO OR MORE ARE GATHERED IN MY NAME, THERE AM I AMONG THEM” (MATTHEW 18:19-20); AND

WHEREAS, THE CHURCH IS THE CONGREGATION OF SAINTS IN WHICH THE GOSPEL IS PURELY TAUGHT AND THE SACRAMENTS ARE CORRECTLY ADMINISTERED” (AUGSBURG CONFESSION, ARTICLE VII); AND

WHEREAS, EACH CONGREGATION, THEREFORE, IN WHICH THE GOSPEL IS PURELY TAUGHT AND THE SACRAMENTS ARE CORRECTLY ADMINISTERED, HAS ALL THE DIGNITY,

GIFTS, AND AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, REGARDLESS OF DEMOGRAPHICS OR SIZE; AND

WHEREAS, “THROUGH THE WORD AND SACRAMENTS, AS THROUGH INSTRUMENTS, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GIVEN, [WHO] WORKS FAITH, WHEN AND WHERE IT PLEASES GOD, IN THOSE WHO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS THAT GOD JUSTIFIES THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE RECEIVED INTO GRACE FOR CHRIST’S SAKE” (AUGSBURG CONFESSION, ARTICLE V); AND

WHEREAS, THE DISSOLUTION OF A CONGREGATION, REGARDLESS OF DEMOGRAPHICS OR SIZE, WOULD ELIMINATE THE TEACHING OF THE GOSPEL AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS IN A GIVEN LOCATION, THUS ELIMINATING THE MEANS BY WHICH THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GIVEN; AND

WHEREAS, CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS HAVE SUPPORTED ONE ANOTHER IN TIMES OF NEED FROM THE TIME OF THE EARLY CHURCH, AS SEEN IN ACTS 2:42-47 AND 2 CORINTHIANS 8; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD BE ENCOURAGED TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER IN THEIR MINISTRIES, FINANCIALLY OR SPIRITUALLY OR OTHERWISE, REGARDLESS OF DEMOGRAPHICS OR SIZE; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE CIRCUIT COUNSELORS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT BE DIRECTED TO ASCERTAIN THE WELFARE OF THEIR CONGREGATIONS AND ADDRESS ANY SUPPORT THAT MAY BE NECESSARY, REPORTING ANY DIRE NEED TO THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THE MONTANA DISTRICT PRESIDENT BE DIRECTED TO MAKE KNOWN TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND TO MEMBER CONGREGATIONS ANY AREAS OF NEED, SO THAT SUPPORT MAY BE SHARED AMONG SISTER CONGREGATIONS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT CONTINUE TO-UPHOLD THE EQUAL DIGNITY, GIFTS AND AUTHORITY OF ALL MEMBER CONGREGATIONS, REGARDLESS OF DEMOGRAPHICS OR SIZE, AND TO TRY TO PREVENT THE DISSOLUTION OF ANY MEMBER CONGREGATIONS; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT IN CONVENTION MEMORIALIZE THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD IN CONVENTION IN 2013 TO ENCOURAGE THESE OR SIMILAR EFFORTS IN EVERY DISTRICT.

CHAIRMAN- REV. DAVID WARNER

SECRETARY- REV. MARCUS BAIKIE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-03

**Title of Resolution: TO ENCOURAGE EACH CONGREGATION IN
UNDERSTANDING AND PURSUING ITS CALLING WITHIN
GOD’S MISSION**

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, GOD’S DESIRE IS THAT ALL BE SAVED (1 TIMOTHY 2:4) AND ONLY UNDER THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST (ACTS 4:12); AND

WHEREAS, ALL BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS HAVE A CALLING, AS PART OF THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS, DECLARING THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO HAS CALLED US OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS WONDERFUL LIGHT, TO BE READY TO GIVE THE REASON FOR HOPE THAT IS IN THEM (1 PETER 2 & 3); AND

WHEREAS, THE MISSION AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE IMPLEMENTED A STRATEGY FOR PLANTING NEW CONGREGATIONS, RESULTING IN ONE NEW CONGREGATION IN THOMPSON FALLS AND CURRENTLY FOCUSED ON CALLING A MISSIONARY-AT-LARGE TO WORK IN THE LIVINGSTON-BIG TIMBER AREA, AND

WHEREAS, THE LOCAL CONGREGATION, GATHERED AROUND THE GOSPEL PURELY PROCLAIMED AND THE SACRAMENTS RIGHTLY ADMINISTERED, IS CENTRAL TO GOD'S PLAN FOR HIS MISSION (AC V) IN WHICH THE SAINTS ARE EDIFIED AND PREPARED TO CONFESS CHRIST WITHIN THEIR DAILY VOCATIONS, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT EACH CONGREGATION WITHIN THE MONTANA DISTRICT BE ENCOURAGED TO UTILIZE THE DISTRICT MISSION AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE BIBLE STUDY "FROM THE HEART OF GOD TO THE WORLD," TO DEEPEN AND EXPAND THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE ROLE OF EACH CONGREGATION AND CHRISTIAN IN GOD'S MISSION, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE DISTRICT MISSION STRATEGY, AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, THAT EACH CONGREGATION WITHIN THE DISTRICT BE ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP AT LEAST ONE NEW MISSION OUTREACH OBJECTIVE, DURING THE 2012-2015 TRIENNIAL, CONCENTRATING ON CONNECTING TO THE UNCHURCHED OF ITS OWN COMMUNITY.

CHAIRMAN- REV. DAVID WARNER

SECRETARY- REV. MARCUS BAIKIE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 1-04

**Title of Resolution: TO DIRECT AND SUPPORT A PRIORITY FOR MISSION WORK
IN THE BAKKEN OIL BOOM REGION**

Action: ADOPTED

**RE: MONTANA DISTRICT MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE REPORT, WORKBOOK
PAGES 85-86**

WHEREAS, THE LORD, THROUGH THE RAPID ECONOMIC AND POPULATION GROWTH OF THE BAKKEN OIL FIELD REGION, HAS PROVIDED AN EXPANDED OPPORTUNITY AND NEED FOR PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTHEAST MONTANA AND NORTHWEST NORTH DAKOTA; AND

WHEREAS, THE DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS IN THE BAKKEN REGION ARE SEEKING TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL TO THE LONG TIME AND NEW RESIDENTS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES, BE IT THEREFORE

RESOLVED, THAT THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT BE ENCOURAGED TO PRAY FOR THE DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS IN THE BAKKEN REGION, THAT THE LORD GIVE

THEM WISDOM AND FAITHFULNESS AS THEY SEEK TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL TO ALL PEOPLE IN THE BAKKEN REGION, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT THE MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS BE DIRECTED TO MAKE THE SUPPORT AND PURSUIT OF MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES IN THE BAKKEN REGION THE NEXT PRIORITY OF THE DISTRICT MISSION STRATEGY AFTER THE CURRENT EFFORTS IN LIVINGSTON-BIG TIMBER, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT BE DIRECTED TO FACILITATE A SPECIFIC COMMUNICATION PROCESS TO INFORM CURRENT LCMS MEMBERS WHO ARE COMMUTING OR MOVING INTO THE BAKKEN REGION FOR EMPLOYMENT, THAT THEY BE AWARE OF THE LOCATION, SCHEDULE AND POINTS OF CONTACT FOR THE CONGREGATIONS PROVIDING WORD AND SACRAMENT MINISTRY IN THE REGION, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT THE MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE, WORKING WITH THE PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS IN THE REGION, BE DIRECTED TO CONDUCT A STUDY AND PREPARE A REPORT FOR THE BOD WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A PLAN OF ACTION, TO BE COMPLETED BY 12/31/2012, AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED THAT THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT MAINTAIN APPROPRIATE COMMUNICATION WITH THE NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT OF THE LCMS SO THAT OUR TWO DISTRICTS CAN AVOID DUPLICATION OF MINISTRY EFFORTS IN THE AREA.

CHAIRMAN- REV. DAVID WARNER

SECRETARY- REV. MARCUS BAIKIE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-01

Title of Resolution: TO AFFIRM AND ASCERTAIN THE USE OF TRINITARIAN BAPTISM

Action: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, OUR LORD COMMANDED HIS CHURCH TO BAPTIZE “IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”, (MATTHEW 28:19); AND

WHEREAS, HOLY BAPTISM IS THE DEFINITIVE BIRTHING EVENT IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN; AND

WHEREAS, ONE OF THE GREATEST ASSERTIONS OF THE ONE HOLY CHRISTIAN AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH IS HER RECOGNITION THAT A TRINITARIAN BAPTISM IS VALID WHEN WATER AND OUR LORD’S WORDS OF INSTITUTION ARE USED WITHIN THE CONFESSION OF THE TRIUNE GOD; AND

WHEREAS, ALL WHO CONFESS CHRIST’S NAME OUGHT NEVER RECEIVE A BAPTISM WHICH IS ADMINISTERED IN A WAY THAT CASTS DOUBT ON THE EFFICACY OF THAT BAPTISM; AND

WHEREAS, IN RECENT YEARS CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS AND CONGREGATIONS HAVE EXPERIMENTED WITH OTHER BAPTISMAL FORMULAS (E.G., CREATOR, REDEEMER, AND SANCTIFIER), THEREBY ADMINISTERING AN ACT WHICH CANNOT BE RECOGNIZED BY OTHER CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS AS A CHRISTIAN BAPTISM; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT MEMORIALIZE SYNOD IN CONVENTION TO DIRECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD TO INITIATE CONTACT WITH OTHER HISTORICALLY CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS IN ORDER TO VERIFY THAT THE CONGREGATIONS OF THOSE CHURCH BODIES DO, IN FACT, ADMINISTER A CHRISTIAN BAPTISM, THAT IS, SPECIFICALLY, A BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AS GIVEN US IN HOLY SCRIPTURE AS THE TRUE CONFESSION OF THE NAME OF THE TRIUNE GOD.

CHAIRMAN- REV. KEVIN PETERSON

SECRETARY- REV. ROBERT LANE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-02

**Title of Resolution: TO ENCOURAGE THE TEACHING AND PRACTICE OF
CLOSED COMMUNION**

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, MEMBERS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD ARE BOUND BY THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS TO REGARD HOLY SCRIPTURE AS TEACHING OF THE HOLY SUPPER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: (1) THAT HIS BODY AND BLOOD ARE TRULY AND SUBSTANTIALLY PRESENT, DISTRIBUTED, AND RECEIVED IN, WITH, AND UNDER THE ELEMENTS OF BREAD AND WINE (AC X); AND (2) THAT THESE ARE RECEIVED BY BOTH BELIEVING AND UNBELIEVING PARTICIPANTS; BY THOSE WHO EAT IN REPENTANCE AND FAITH, TO “FORGIVENESS OF SINS, LIFE, AND SALVATION,” AND BY THOSE WHO EAT IN UNREPENTANCE OR UNBELIEF, TO JUDGMENT (AP XXIV, FC VII, EP AND SD); AND (3) THAT “TO OBTAIN SUCH FAITH” THE PREACHING OFFICE IS INSTITUTED BY OUR LORD TO ADMINISTER THE GOSPEL AND SACRAMENTS (AC V), WITH THOSE FILLING THE OFFICE HAVING RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE GOD FOR THE SOULS IN THEIR CARE (SA IX); AND

WHEREAS, THE TRUE UNITY OF THE CHURCH IS FOUND IN THE PURE TEACHING OF THE GOSPEL AND RIGHT ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS (AC VII); AND

WHEREAS, THERE EXISTS SIGNIFICANT DISUNITY OF PRACTICE ACROSS THE CONGREGATIONS OF SYNOD IN WHO IS OR IS NOT ADMITTED TO THE LORD’S SUPPER, CAUSING CONFUSION AND STRIFE; AND

WHEREAS, ST. PAUL HIMSELF ADMONISHES THE CORINTHIANS AGAINST ASSEMBLING TO EAT THE SUPPER OF OUR LORD WITH DIVISIONS AMONG THEM, THUS COMING TOGETHER NOT FOR THE BETTER BUT FOR THE WORSE (1 COR 11:17-18); AND

WHEREAS, TRUE DOCTRINE NECESSARILY REGULATES PRACTICE, AS THE CONFESSORS WRITE, “THE CUSTOM HAS BEEN RETAINED AMONG US OF NOT ADMINISTERING THE SACRAMENT TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN EXAMINED AND ABSOLVED” (AC XXV); AND “IN OUR CHURCHES MASS IS CELEBRATED EVERY SUNDAY AND OTHER FESTIVALS, WHEN THE SACRAMENT IS OFFERED TO THOSE WHO WISH FOR IT AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN EXAMINED AND ABSOLVED” (AP XXIV); AND, AS OUR LORD SAYS, “MY MOTHER AND MY BROTHERS ARE THOSE WHO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD AND DO IT” (LK 8:21); AND

WHEREAS, THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PASTORS AS STEWARDS OF THE MYSTERIES OF GOD IS NOT AS HIRELINGS OR PLEASERS OF ANY MAN OR GROUP OF MEN, BUT AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST, IT BEING REQUIRED OF STEWARDS THAT THEY BE FAITHFUL (2 TIM 4:3-4; 1 COR

4:1-2); AND AS THEY KEEP WATCH OVER SOULS AS THOSE WHO WILL HAVE TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT (HEB 13:17); AND

WHEREAS, THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF SYNOD IS, “UNDER THE SCRIPTURE AND LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS,” TO “CONSERVE AND PROMOTE THE UNITY OF THE TRUE FAITH (EPH 4:3-6; 1 COR 1:10), ETC.” (CONST.III.1); AND

WHEREAS, THE DISTRICT PRESIDENTS SHALL “ESPECIALLY EXERCISE SUPERVISION OVER THE DOCTRINE, LIFE, AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE ORDAINED AND COMMISSIONED MINISTERS OF THEIR DISTRICT AND ACQUAINT THEMSELVES WITH THE RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS OF THE CONGREGATIONS OF THEIR DISTRICT” (CONST.XII.7); AND

WHEREAS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SYNOD “HAS THE SUPERVISION REGARDING THE DOCTRINE AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF ALL OFFICERS, DISTRICTS AND DISTRICT PRESIDENTS” (CONST.XI.B.1); THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE PASTORS OF OUR SYNOD BE EXHORTED, AS DUTY BOUND BY OFFICE BEFORE THE ALMIGHTY GOD, TO WHOM THEY WILL HAVE TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT FOR THE SOULS ENTRUSTED TO THEM, TO TEACH, EXHORT, PRACTICE, AND DEFEND CLOSED COMMUNION, COMMUNING ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN “EXAMINED AND ABSOLVED” (AC XXV, AP XXIV); WHO ARE NEITHER LIVING IN OPEN, UNREPENTANT SIN, NOR UNDER THE BAN; WHO HAVE BEEN TAUGHT AND CONFESS, NOT ONLY THE TRUE DOCTRINE OF THE LORD’S SUPPER, BUT ALL DOCTRINES AS TAUGHT IN THE SMALL CATECHISM; WHO EAT AND DRINK AT THE LORD’S TABLE AS THOSE WHO GLADLY HEAR AND BELIEVE WHATSOEVER THEIR LORD TEACHES, PROFESSING NO DOCTRINE CONTRARY TO THAT TAUGHT WHERE THEY COMMUNE; AND WHOSE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP REFLECTS SAID CONFESSION, EXCEPT IN RARE, TEMPORARY, AND EXTRAORDINARY CASES OF PASTORAL DISCRETION; AND BE IT FURTHER,

RESOLVED, THAT THE CONGREGATIONS AND CONGREGANTS OF OUR SYNOD BE EXHORTED, IN THE FEAR OF GOD AND LOVE OF THE PASTORS HE SENDS, SO THAT THEY MAY SERVE “JOYFULLY, AND NOT SADLY” (HEB 13:17), BOTH TO SUPPORT AND UPHOLD THE PRACTICE OF CLOSED COMMUNION IN OUR CONGREGATIONS, AND TO REFRAIN FROM COMMUNING AT ALTARS OF DIFFERING CONFESSIONS, AS A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE AND CHRISTIAN TRUTHFULNESS, AND ALSO OUT OF CONCERN FOR THE TRUE UNITY OF THE CHURCH IN ONENESS OF TEACHING; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE DISTRICT PRESIDENTS OF OUR SYNOD BE EXHORTED, AS TRUE ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISORS, AND AS MEN WHO WILL ALSO HAVE TO GIVE ACCOUNT FOR THE MINISTRY COMMITTED TO THEIR CARE, TO TEACH, EXHORT, DEFEND, AND FURTHER THE PRACTICE OF CLOSED COMMUNION AMONG THE MEMBERS (CONGREGATIONS AND PASTORS) COMMITTED TO THEIR CARE; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE SYNOD BE EXHORTED, AS THE ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISOR OF THE ENTIRE SYNOD, TO SEE THAT THE DISTRICT PRESIDENTS APPLY THEMSELVES FAITHFULLY TO THIS TASK, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE COMMISSION ON THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS AND THE SEMINARIES OF OUR SYNOD BE EXHORTED TO CONTINUE TO PRODUCE EDIFYING MATERIALS FOR THE TEACHING AND PRACTICE OF CLOSED COMMUNION IN OUR FELLOWSHIP; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT IN CONVENTION MEMORIALIZE THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD IN CONVENTION IN 2013, TO ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION AS ITS OWN.

CHAIRMAN- REV. KEVIN PETERSON

SECRETARY- REV. ROBERT LANE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-03

**Title of Resolution: TO DECLINE OVERTURE 2-02
(To Encourage the Support of Church-Work Students)**

Action: ADOPTED

Re: OVERTURE IN WORKBOOK PAGE- 109

WHEREAS, RESOLUTIONS OF THIS NATURE HAVE PASSED IN PREVIOUS CONVENTIONS, BOTH AT SYNOD AND DISTRICT LEVEL; AND

WHEREAS, THIS WORK IS ALREADY BEING DONE BY CHURCH WORKERS AND CONGREGATIONS IN THE DISTRICT; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT OVERTURE 2-02 BE DECLINED.

CHAIRMAN- KEVIN PETERSON

SECRETARY- ROBERT LANE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-04

**Title of Resolution: TO COMMEND, ENCOURAGE, AND EXPLORE CAMPUS
MINISTRY**

Action: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, THE MONTANA DISTRICT CAMPUS MINISTRY SUBCOMMITTEE IS WORKING DILIGENTLY IN PROVIDING FOR MINISTRY TO LUTHERAN STUDENTS ATTENDING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN MONTANA; AND

WHEREAS, CONGREGATIONS ARE ENGAGED IN MINISTRY TO LUTHERAN STUDENTS ATTENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA AND MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY; AND

WHEREAS, WHILE ATTENDING PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OUR LUTHERAN STUDENTS COME IN CONTACT WITH MANY LIES, RELIGIOUS OR OTHERWISE, THAT COMPETE WITH THE TRUTH OF HOLY SCRIPTURE, MAKING CAMPUS MINISTRY A VITAL MINISTRY FOR OUR STUDENTS; AND

WHEREAS, ON-SITE CAMPUS MINISTRIES HAVE PROVEN TO BE GREAT BLESSINGS IN PROVIDING READILY ACCESSIBLE WORD AND SACRAMENT MINISTRY TO COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS THROUGH BIBLE STUDIES, WORSHIP SERVICES, AND PASTORAL COUNSELING, PROVIDING A SAFE HAVEN AGAINST SPIRITUAL ATTACKS, AND A PLACE IN WHICH STUDENTS CAN BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE WORK OF THE CHURCH IN WAYS THAT THEY OTHERWISE WOULD NOT OR COULD NOT; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT IN CONVENTION THANK, COMMEND, AND ENCOURAGE ALL THE WORK OF THE CAMPUS MINISTRY SUBCOMMITTEE ON BEHALF OF OUR LUTHERAN STUDENTS, AND THE CONGREGATIONS CURRENTLY MINISTERING TO THEM, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED THAT THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT BE ENCOURAGED TO COOPERATE WITH THE EFFORTS OF THE CAMPUS MINISTRY SUBCOMMITTEE IN SUBMITTING NAMES OF STUDENTS ATTENDING MONTANA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, AND WITH INVOLVING THEMSELVES IN MINISTRY WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS SHOULD THEY FIND THEMSELVES NEAR A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT IN CONVENTION DIRECT THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH MONTANA DISTRICT CAMPUS MINISTRY SUBCOMMITTEE AND THE MISSION AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL CONGREGATIONS TO EXPLORE, DURING THE NEXT TRIENNium, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ON-SITE CAMPUS MINISTRY AT EITHER OR BOTH OF THE MONTANA UNIVERSITIES IN MISSOULA AND BOZEMAN AND REPORT THEIR FINDINGS TO THE NEXT CONVENTION.

CHAIRMAN- KEVIN PETERSON

SECRETARY- ROBERT LANE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-05

Title of Resolution: TO REAFFIRM COMMUNION FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN CONGREGATIONS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Action: DECLINED

WHEREAS, THE PRACTICE OF LIMITING COMMUNION ATTENDANCE TO MEMBERS OF ONE'S OWN CONGREGATION ONLY AND REFUSING COMMUNION TO VISITING MEMBERS OF OTHER LCMS CONGREGATIONS HAS BEEN REPORTED AND DISCUSSED AMONG US; AND

WHEREAS, A SYNOD IS, BY DEFINITION, A "WALKING TOGETHER", AND THE RIGHT ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR, ALONG WITH THE PREACHING OF THE PURE GOSPEL, ARE THE GREATEST MARKS OF THAT TRUE FELLOWSHIP AND UNITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST (AC VII); AND

WHEREAS, THE FIRST OBJECTIVE OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD IS TO "CONSERVE AND PROMOTE THE UNITY OF THE TRUE FAITH (EPH. 4:3-6; 1 COR.1:10)" AND "PROVIDE A UNITED DEFENSE AGAINST SCHISM, SECTARIANISM (ROM. 16:17), AND HERESY" (CONST. III.1); AND

WHEREAS, GOD'S WORD THROUGH SAINT PAUL DIRECTS US TO: "MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE BOND OF PEACE. THERE IS ONE BODY AND ONE SPIRIT— JUST AS YOU WERE CALLED TO ONE HOPE WHEN YOU WERE CALLED" (EPH. 4:3); AND

WHEREAS, THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED RESTRICTIVE PRACTICE IS AN INAPPROPRIATE APPLICATION OF SYNOD'S LONG HELD TEACHING AND PRACTICE OF CLOSE(D) COMMUNION; AND

WHEREAS, SUCH A PRACTICE IS BOTH CONFUSING TO THE LAITY AND DISRUPTIVE TO THE UNITY OF SYNOD; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE CONGREGATIONS AND PASTORS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT BE ENCOURAGED TO DEMONSTRATE AND CELEBRATE THE GREAT GIFT OF TRUE UNITY BY WILLINGLY AND JOYFULLY COMMUNING MEMBERS OF OTHER LCMS CONGREGATIONS WHO ARE COMMUNICANT MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING (THAT IS, A MEMBER WHO IS NOT UNDER CHURCH DISCIPLINE) WHEN THEY DESIRE COMMUNION ACCORDING TO THE GOOD ORDER OF THE LOCAL CONGREGATION AND PASTOR.

CHAIRMAN: KEVIN PETERSON

SECRETARY: ROBERT LANE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-01

**Title of Resolution: TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE DEFENSE OF
RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND THE
SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE**

Action: ADOPTED

RE: REPORT OR OVERTURE IN WORKBOOK PAGE- PRESIDENT'S REPORT PAGE 30

WHEREAS, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES MANDATE FORCES RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS TO SUPPORT ACTIVITY WHICH GOES AGAINST THEIR CONSCIENCE, THE SANCTITY OF LIFE, AND THE WORD OF GOD; AND

WHEREAS, "TO REQUIRE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE THESE SERVICES VIOLATES CONSCIENCES AND THE PRINCIPLES OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY GUARANTEED IN THE U.S. CONSTITUTION," (A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS – FEBRUARY 21, 2012); AND

WHEREAS, PRESIDENT HARRISON IN APPEARING BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT AND REFORM, HAS EXERCISED HIS RIGHT AS UNITED STATES CITIZEN IN DEFENSE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND HAS UTILIZED HIS POSITION AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE LUTHERAN-CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD TO PROMOTE, DEFEND, AND REPRESENT THE BIBLICAL POSITION ON THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE; AND

WHEREAS, THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS STANDS IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT HARRISON'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT WE AS THE MONTANA DISTRICT IN CONVENTION COMMEND AND SUPPORT PRESIDENT HARRISON'S ROLE IN DEFENDING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE; AND PROMOTING THE SCRIPTURAL TRUTH ON THE SANCTITY OF LIFE; AND BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT BE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO HEAR PRESIDENT HARRISON'S TESTIMONY TO THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS BE ENCOURAGED TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS AS AMERICAN CITIZENS TO OPPOSE THIS MANDATE AND FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF PRESIDENT HARRISON IN SEEKING TO MAINTAIN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND PROMOTE THE SANCTITY OF LIFE.

CHAIRMAN - REV. MARK CUTLER

SECRETARY- REV. MARK GRUNST

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-02

**Title of Resolution: TO COMMEND THE USE OF RESOURCES WHICH ADDRESS
AND INFORM ABOUT LIFE ISSUES**

Action: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Re: REPORT OR OVERTURE IN WORKBOOK PAGE- PRESIDENT'S ORAL REPORT

WHEREAS, SCRIPTURE MAKES CLEAR AND THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD HAS RIGHTLY AND CONSISTENTLY PROCLAIMED THAT ALL LIFE IS A GIFT FROM GOD; AND

WHEREAS, ANY SELECTIVE PROCESS WHICH UTILIZES ABORTION, EUGENICS, GENDER OR AGE SELECTION, ETC. TO DETERMINE THE ENDING OF LIFE, DEVALUES LIFE AS A GIFT FROM GOD; AND

WHEREAS, RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO EDUCATE, INFORM AND ADDRESS ABOUT CURRENT LIFE ISSUES; AND

WHEREAS, AS INFORMED MEMBERS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD WE ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO UTILIZE THESE RESOURCES AND BE PREPARED TO ADDRESS LIFE ISSUES AS UNITED STATES CITIZENS; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT ENCOURAGE EACH DISTRICT CONGREGATION TO USE OR READ RESOURCES, SUCH AS "BLOOD MONEY," A DOCUMENTARY ON THE ABORTION BUSINESS; AND BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT ENCOURAGE CONTACTING AND URGING STATE AND FEDERAL SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO REJECT ANY BILL THAT SUPPORTS AND LEGALIZES DESTRUCTION OF HUMAN LIFE SUCH AS ABORTIONS (EXCEPTING CASES TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE MOTHER) INCLUDING GENDER BASED ABORTIONS, AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDES; AND BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT DISCOURAGE ANY SELECTIVE TARGETING OF CERTAIN ETHNIC GROUPS TO ELIMINATE THEM IN SOCIETY; AND BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT ENCOURAGE THE DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS TO BECOME INFORMED ABOUT AND SUPPORT BRADLEY WILLIAMS' WORK OPPOSING PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE IN THE STATE OF MONTANA; BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT, AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN CHRIST, ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO LIFE OF ALL PEOPLE.

CHAIRMAN: REV MARK CUTLER

SECRETARY: REV. MARK GRUNST

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-03

**Title of Resolution: TO AFFIRM THE TEACHING OF SIX DAY CREATION IN
SYNODICAL SCHOOLS**

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, EVOLUTIONARY ASSUMPTIONS ARE ERRONEOUS, BEING NEITHER BIBLICAL NOR SCIENTIFIC; AND

WHEREAS, EVOLUTIONARY ASSUMPTIONS HAVE HAD A DEVASTATING IMPACT ON OUR CULTURE, UNDERMINING HUMAN MORALITY AND THE INSTITUTIONS GOD HAS APPOINTED (E.G., MARRIAGE, FAMILY, GOVERNMENT, ETC.); AND

WHEREAS, EVOLUTIONARY ASSUMPTIONS IN THE CHURCH UNDERMINE THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE AND HAVE ATTACKED THE CHURCH'S CONFESSION OF EVERY MAJOR DOCTRINE OF THE SCRIPTURE; AND

WHEREAS, UNCONDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTION TO SCRIPTURE AND THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS REQUIRES TEACHING A 6-DAY CREATION; AND

WHEREAS, SYNODICAL COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND SEMINARIES ARE OBLIGATED TO PROVIDE AN EDUCATIONAL THAT IS TRULY BIBLICAL AND SCIENTIFIC, SO THAT STUDENTS MIGHT CRITICALLY ASSESS AND RESPOND TO THE ERRONEOUS ASSUMPTIONS OF EVOLUTIONARY THEORY; AND

WHEREAS, SYNODICALLY-TRAINED TEACHERS HAVE A LIFE-LONG IMPACT ON THEIR ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PREPARE THEM FOR A LIFE OF CONFESSION OF AND SERVICE TO GOD'S TRUTH IN JESUS CHRIST; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT MEMORIALIZE SYNOD TO INSTRUCT THE PRESIDENT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD TO CLARIFY WHAT IS AND IS NOT BEING TAUGHT AT LCMS COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES REGARDING EVOLUTION AND CREATION; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT MEMORIALIZE THE SYNOD TO INSTRUCT THE PRESIDENT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC MEANS FOR LCMS COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SEMINARIES TO PREPARE COLLEGE AND GRADUATE SYNODICAL STUDENTS TO CHALLENGE EVOLUTIONARY THEORY AND THE ASSUMPTIONS UPON WHICH IT RESTS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT MEMORIALIZE SYNOD TO INSTRUCT CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE TO PREPARE AND PROVIDE RESOURCES AND CURRICULA TO EQUIP TEACHERS IN PAROCHIAL GRADE SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS, IN ORDER TO EQUIP STUDENTS TO RECOGNIZE AND REFUTE EVOLUTIONARY THEORY ON THE BASIS OF SCRIPTURE AND SCIENCE; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT MEMORIALIZE THE SYNOD TO INSTRUCT THE DISTRICT PRESIDENTS, AS ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISORS, TO HOLD CONCORDIA FACULTIES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS ACCOUNTABLE TO BE FAITHFUL IN THE CLASSROOM TO THE FAITH WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO CONFESS.

CHAIRMAN- REV. MARK CUTLER

SECRETARY- REV. MARK GRUNST

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-04

Title of Resolution: TO ENCOURAGE THE SUPPORT OF THE SEMINARIES

Action - ADOPTED

Re: REPORT OR OVERTURE IN WORKBOOK PAGE- PAGE 115

WHEREAS, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST HAS SAID, "THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW; THEREFORE PRAY EARNESTLY TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST" (MATTHEW 9:37-38); AND

WHEREAS, A STATED OBJECTIVE OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH---MISSOURI SYNOD IS TO "RECRUIT AND TRAIN PASTORS, TEACHERS, AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKERS AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR THEIR CONTINUING GROWTH" (CONSTITUTION ARTICLE III: 3); AND

WHEREAS, THE SEMINARIES OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH---MISSOURI SYNOD HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO PREPARE MEN TO SERVE AS PASTORS AND TO PREPARE WOMEN TO SERVE AS DEACONESSES FOR THE CONGREGATIONS AND MISSIONS OF THE SYNOD; AND

WHEREAS, THE SEMINARIES INCREASINGLY RELY ON STUDENT TUITION, FEES, AND GIFTS FROM CONGREGATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, RATHER THAN FUNDS FROM THE LUTHERAN CHURCH---MISSOURI SYNOD, IN ORDER TO FUND THEIR MISSION TO THE SYNOD OF PROVIDING THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION (ABOUT 2% OF THE SEMINARIES' ANNUAL BUDGETS ARE PROVIDED IN SUBSIDY DIRECT FROM THE SYNOD'S OPERATING BUDGET [*THE LUTHERAN WITNESS*, MAY 2011]) ; AND

WHEREAS, THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF BOTH CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS, AND CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, FORT WAYNE, IS CRITICAL TO THE LONG-TERM FAITHFULNESS AND WELL-BEING OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED , THAT THE LUTHERAN CHURCH---MISSOURI SYNOD GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OF THE CHURCH FOR HAVING ANSWERED THE PRAYERS OF HIS PEOPLE BY SENDING LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT CONGREGATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS BE ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE SEMINARIES OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD; THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT MEMORIALIZE THE LUTHERAN CHURCH---MISSOURI SYNOD IN CONVENTION TO INCREASE DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE SEMINARIES OF THE SYNOD STARTING WITH 5% OF THE SEMINARIES' ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGETS IN 2014 AND TO INCREASE ANOTHER 5% OF THE SEMINARIES' ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGETS EACH YEAR UNTIL 2023, AFTER WHICH TIME SYNOD WILL SUPPORT THE SEMINARIES AT A MINIMUM OF 51% OF THEIR ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGETS, TO BE CONTINUED AT THIS LEVEL INDEFINITELY.

CHAIRMAN- REV. MARK CUTLER

SECRETARY-REV. MARK GRUNST

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 3-05

Title of Resolution: TO FACILITATE PLACEMENT OF RETURNING ORDAINED MISSIONARIES

Action: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, ORDAINED MISSIONARIES AND MILITARY CHAPLAINS HAVE VERY DIVERSE EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS IN PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO VARIOUS PEOPLES, AND

WHEREAS, ORDAINED FIELD MISSIONARIES AND MILITARY CHAPLAINS SERVE IN A TEMPORARY POSITION WHICH EVENTUALLY COMES TO A CONCLUSION, AND ARE AVAILABLE AND DESIRING OF A PASTORAL CALL; AND

WHEREAS, IT IS POOR STEWARDSHIP THAT THESE GIFTS FROM GOD ARE NOT BEING FULLY UTILIZED BECAUSE A PASTORAL CALL HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED IN A TIMELY MANNER; AND

WHEREAS, SMOOTH TRANSITIONS BACK FROM MISSIONARY SERVICE MAY ENCOURAGE MORE PASTORS TO SEEK EXPANDING THEIR MINISTRY EXPERIENCE BY MAKING THEMSELVES RECEPTIVE TO MISSIONARY SERVICE; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT IN CONVENTION MEMORIALIZE THE LCMS TO DIRECT DISTRICT PRESIDENTS TO MAKE FULL AND TIMELY USE OF THE LIST OF RETURNING ORDAINED MISSIONARIES AND MILITARY CHAPLAINS AS PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS WHEN SUPPLYING CANDIDATE LISTS TO CALLING CONGREGATIONS.

CHAIRMAN: REV. MARK CUTLER

SECRETARY: REV. MARK GRUNST

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-01

Title of Resolution: TO REQUIRE A HIGH STANDARD OF EDUCATION FOR ORDAINED MINISTERS

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, JESUS INSTITUTED THE OFFICE OF THE HOLY MINISTRY, COMMANDING HIS APOSTLES TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS BY BAPTIZING AND TEACHING “**ALL** (EMPHASIS ADDED) THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU...” (MATTHEW 28:20); AND

WHEREAS, GOD, THROUGH THE APOSTLE PAUL, LISTED AS QUALIFICATIONS FOR PASTORS THAT THEY BE “ABLE TO TEACH”, “NOT BE A RECENT CONVERT” (1 TIMOTHY 3:3), AND “HE MUST HOLD FIRM TO THE TRUSTWORTHY WORD AS TAUGHT, SO THAT HE MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE GOOD INSTRUCTIONS IN SOUND DOCTRINE AND ALSO TO REBUKE THOSE WHO CONTRADICT IT” (TITUS 1); AND

WHEREAS, CURRENTLY THE ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAM CANDIDATES ENROLLED IN CENTER FOR HISPANIC STUDIES (CHS), SPECIFIC MINISTRY PASTOR (SMP), ETHNIC IMMIGRANT INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY (EIIT), AND DEAF INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY (DIT), COMPLETE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ORDINATION WITH LESS THAN HALF OF THE ACADEMIC

EDUCATION OF MASTER OF DIVINITY, CERTIFICATE, AND CROSS CULTURAL MINISTRY CENTER (CCMC) STUDENTS; AND

WHEREAS, BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS ALIKE BENEFIT FROM A CLERGY THAT IS WELL-TRAINED AND WELL-VERSED IN ALL AREAS OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE; AND

WHEREAS, EVEN SOCIETY AT LARGE STRESSES THE GREAT BENEFITS OF RECEIVING MORE EDUCATION AND NOT LESS; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE 2012 MONTANA DISTRICT IN CONVENTION MEMORIALIZE THE 2013 LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD CONVENTION TO DIRECT THE CHIEF MISSION OFFICER AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL EDUCATION TO REQUIRE ALL PASTORAL MINISTRY ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAMS TO SHARE THE SAME HIGH STANDARD OF EDUCATION; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THIS STANDARD REQUIRE ALL ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAMS TO SHARE THE SAME ENTRY-LEVEL STANDARD OF EDUCATION AS THE CERTIFICATE ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAM; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THIS STANDARD OF EDUCATION FOR ALL ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAMS BE, AT THE MINIMUM, EQUIVALENT TO THE CERTIFICATE (COLLOQUY) ALTERNATE ROUTE PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY THE STUDY OF THE BIBLICAL GREEK LANGUAGE; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, THE MONTANA DISTRICT IN CONVENTION MEMORIALIZE THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD IN CONVENTION TO DIRECT THE CHIEF MISSION OFFICER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT THESE STANDARDS BY THE 2015 ACADEMIC YEAR OR SOONER.

CHAIRMAN: REV. VERN SANDERSFELD

SECRETARY: REV. STEVEN SCHLUND

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-02

Title of Resolution: TO EMPHASIZE ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION IN REORGANIZATION OF DISTRICTS

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, THE TRUE UNITY OF THE CHURCH IS FOUND IN THE PURE TEACHING OF THE GOSPEL AND RIGHT ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS (AC 7); AND

WHEREAS, THE PRIMARY CONSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVE OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD IS TO, “UNDER SCRIPTURE AND THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS,” “CONSERVE AND PROMOTE THE UNITY OF THE TRUE FAITH (EPH 4:3-6; 1 COR 1:10)...AND PROVIDE A UNITED DEFENSE AGAINST SCHISM, SECTARIANISM, (ROM 16:17), AND HERESY” (CONT. III.1); AND

WHEREAS, THE DISTRICT PRESIDENTS SHALL “ESPECIALLY EXERCISE SUPERVISION OVER THE DOCTRINE, LIFE AND ADMINISTRATION OF OFFICE OF THE ORDAINED AND

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS OF THEIR DISTRICT AND ACQUAINT THEMSELVES WITH THE RELIGIOUS CONDITIONS OF THE CONGREGATIONS OF THEIR DISTRICT” (CONST. XII.7); AND

WHEREAS, SYNOD HAS ELABORATED IN *BYLAWS* 4.4.4, 4.4.5, 4.4.6, THE DUTIES OF THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT IN THESE REGARDS, REQUIRING CONGREGATIONAL VISITATIONS, THEOLOGICAL INTERACTION WITH MINISTERS UNDER HIS ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION, AND INVESTIGATION AND RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS IN DOCTRINE AND PRACTICE, THESE BEING WELL-REASONED AND GODLY RESPONSIBILITIES AND DEMANDING OF A PRESIDENT’S TIME AND ENERGY IN PROPORTION TO THE NUMBER OF CONGREGATIONS HE SERVES ; AND

WHEREAS, THE MOST INTIMATE AND INFLUENTIAL INTERACTION OF SYNOD WITH PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS, INCLUDING VISITATIONS, ENCOURAGEMENT AND CONSOLATION, CALL AND PLACEMENT OF NEW MINISTERS, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION, IS THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICT PRESIDENTS; AND

WHEREAS, SYNOD HAS, AT THE DIRECTION OF HER LAST CONVENTION (RESOLUTION 8-07), UNDERTAKEN TO STUDY THE REALIGNMENT OF HER DISTRICTS; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT ANY PROCESS OF DISTRICT REALIGNMENT HAVE AS ITS PRIMARY FOCUS THE PRESERVATION OR REALIGNMENT OF DISTRICTS AS FUNCTIONAL UNITS OF ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION, TO BE OF SUCH A SIZE AND CHARACTER THAT A DISTRICT PRESIDENT

RESOLVED, THAT THIS CONCERN FOR EFFECTIVE ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION, WHICH ENTAILS THE DISTRICT PRESIDENTS’ CLOSE INTERACTION WITH MINISTERS AND MEMBER CONGREGATIONS, BE CONSIDERED CHIEF AMONG THE “GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF VIABILITY FOR A DISTRICT,” AS CALLED FOR IN *BYLAW* 4.1.1.3(B)(3); AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE CONGREGATIONS AND MINISTERS BENEFITING FROM THE ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION AFFORDED BY THEIR DISTRICT PRESIDENTS BE GRANTED THE RIGHT OF ADVICE AND CONSENT REGARDING ANY PROPOSED REALIGNMENT, BEING THEMSELVES THE BEST JUDGES OF THE VIABILITY OF THEIR DISTRICTS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT DISTRICT PRESIDENTS BE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE UP THIS CHIEF ASPECT OF THEIR DUTIES WITH ZEAL AND FAITHFULNESS TOWARD THE SCRIPTURES, THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS, AND THE MINISTERS AND CONGREGATIONS COMMITTED TO THEIR CARE; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THOSE THEY SUPERVISE WOULD ENDEAVOR TO MAKE THIS SERVICE A JOY AND NOT A BURDEN, COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO STUDY, AND BE FULLY SUBJECT TO, THE WORD OF GOD IN ALL THINGS, AND, RECOGNIZING THIS AS THE CHIEF DUTY OF THEIR ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISORS, AS MEN WHO WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT, COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO BUILDING THE UNITY THAT IS OF THE SPIRIT, IN THE BOND OF PEACE, BY SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE (EPH 4); AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT IN CONVENTION GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR THE FAITHFUL AND DILIGENT CARE AFFORDED TO EACH OF HER MEMBERS THROUGH HER DISTRICT PRESIDENTS, PAST AND PRESENT, FOR THE ATMOSPHERE OF BROTHERLY LOVE AND CONCERN AMONG HER MINISTERS AND SISTERLY LOVE AND CONCERN AMONG HER CONGREGATIONS, ALL OF WHICH ARE FURTHERED BY HER CONSTITUTION AS A DISTRICT OF

REASONABLE AND VIABLE SIZE, AND PRAY THAT THESE BENEFITS MAY CONTINUE AND FLOURISH AMONG US; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, THE MONTANA DISTRICT IN CONVENTION MEMORIALIZE THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD IN CONVENTION IN 2013, TO ADOPT AS ITS OWN THIS RESOLUTION, WITH AN APPROPRIATELY GENERALIZED THANKSGIVING FOR THE FAITHFUL AND DILIGENT SERVICE OF OUR DISTRICT PRESIDENTS AS ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISORS AND PRAY THAT IT MAY CONTINUE AND FLOURISH AMONG US.

CHAIRMAN: REV. VERN SANDERSFELD

SECRETARY: REV. STEVEN SCHLUND

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-03

Title of resolution: TO ENCOURAGE CHRISTIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, MANY EXCELLENT PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL, INCLUDING CLASSROOM TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND SUPPORT STAFF ADHERE TO AND LIVE BY GODLY PRINCIPLES, AND MAINTAIN EXEMPLARY CHRISTIAN TESTIMONIES, OFTEN WITH VERY POSITIVE RESULTS AND SOMETIMES AT GREAT PERSONAL COST; AND

WHEREAS, THESE CHRISTIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL ARE OFTEN THE ONLY REPRESENTATION OF JESUS CHRIST AND HIS REDEMPTIVE LOVE THAT STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS EXPERIENCE IN THEIR LIVES; AND

WHEREAS, THESE CHRISTIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL NEED THE CHURCH'S CONSTANT ENCOURAGEMENT; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT WE, THE MONTANA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD MEETING IN BILLINGS, MONTANA, JUNE 11-14, 2012, AFFIRM THESE INDIVIDUALS; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, THAT EACH CONGREGATION OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT BE ENCOURAGED TO IDENTIFY THESE TEACHERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY, PRAY FOR THEM, AND SUPPORT THEM, IN SO FAR AS THEY FAITHFULLY CONFESS AND TEACH ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD, IN THE PLACES IN WHICH THEY SERVE.

CHAIRMAN: REV. VERN SANDERSFELD

SECRETARY: REV. STEVEN SCHLUND

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-04:

Title of Resolution: TO PROVIDE A RESOURCE TO EQUIP CHRISTIAN PUBLIC EDUCATORS WITH ALTERNATIVES TO THE EXCLUSIVE TEACHING OF EVOLUTION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOM

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, "IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH." (GEN. 1:1); AND

WHEREAS, MEN "DELIBERATELY FORGET THAT LONG AGO BY GOD'S WORD THE HEAVENS EXISTED AND THE EARTH WAS FORMED OUT OF WATER AND BY WATER." (2 PETER 3:5)

WHEREAS, PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULAE RARELY ADMIT ANY TEACHING OF ORIGINS OTHER THAN EVOLUTION; AND

WHEREAS, IT IS CHALLENGING FOR TEACHERS TO LOCATE MATERIALS REFUTING OR OFFERING ALTERNATIVES TO EVOLUTION; AND

WHEREAS, A SINGLE RESOURCE INDEXING MATERIALS TO REFUTE EVOLUTION AND OFFER RATIONAL ALTERNATIVES (E.G. "INTELLIGENT DESIGN" OR "YOUNG EARTH") WOULD GREATLY AID PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS IN ACCESSING SUCH MATERIALS, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPOINT QUALIFIED PERSONS TO COMPILE SUCH AN INDEX AND MAKE THIS AVAILABLE ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE.

CHAIRMAN: REV. VERN SANDERSFELD

SECRETARY: REV. STEVEN SCHLUND

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 4-05

Title of Resolution: TO SUPPORT THE LUTHERAN MALARIA INITIATIVE

ACTION: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, MALARIA IS A LIFE-THREATENING DISEASE CAUSED BY PARASITES TRANSMITTED TO PEOPLE THROUGH THE BITES OF MALARIA-CARRYING MOSQUITOS; AND

WHEREAS, MALARIA KILLS NEARLY 1 MILLION PEOPLE ANNUALLY, THE MAJORITY BEING PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN; AND

WHEREAS, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ILLNESS AND DEATH DUE TO MALARIA COST THE AFRICAN ECONOMY \$12 BILLION A YEAR IN LOST PRODUCTIVITY; AND

WHEREAS, MALARIA IS PREVENTABLE, IN THAT SLEEPING UNDER INSECTICIDE-TREATED BED NETS CAN REDUCE MALARIA TRANSMISSIONS BY AS MUCH AS 90%; AND

WHEREAS, THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD IN ITS 2010 CONVENTION AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LUTHERAN MALARIA INITIATIVE TO COMBAT MALARIA BY DISTRIBUTING BED NETS AND EDUCATING PEOPLE HOW TO USE THEM FOR AS LITTLE AS \$10 PER NET; AND

WHEREAS, THE MEMBERS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT CAN DEMONSTRATE GOD'S MERCY TO THEIR NEIGHBORS IN AFRICA, AS WELL AS UNITY WITH THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD BY PARTICIPATING IN THE LUTHERAN MALARIA INITIATIVE; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT CONGREGATIONS, MEMBERS OF THOSE CONGREGATIONS, AND CALLED WORKERS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT LCMS BE ENCOURAGED TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE LUTHERAN MALARIA INITIATIVE WITH THEIR PRAYERS AND GIFTS.

CHAIRMAN: REV. VERN SANDERSFELD

SECRETARY: REV. STEVEN SCHLUND

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5-01

Title of Amendment: TO AMEND THE BYLAWS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT

Action: ADOPTED AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, THE BYLAWS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT HAVE NOT BEEN REVIEWED FOR QUITE SOME TIME; AND

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPOINTED A COMMITTEE WHICH PRODUCED A CONSERVATIVE REVISION OF EXISTING BYLAWS TO CLEARLY, CONSISTENTLY, AND CONCISELY REFLECT CURRENT PRACTICE, MAKING USE OF THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR MATTERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, AND

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVED THESE AMENDMENTS AT ITS MEETING ON MAY 6, 2011; AND

WHEREAS, THE COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS REVIEWED AND APPROVED THE AMENDED BYLAWS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE 2012 MONTANA DISTRICT CONVENTION; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE AMENDED BYLAWS, AS THEY APPEAR IN THE WORKBOOK OF THE 2012 MONTANA DISTRICT CONVENTION, BE FURTHER AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

- IN BYLAW 1.3.2, PARAGRAPH C (P. 63), INSERT, AFTER "BEFORE EACH CONVENTION," "SOLICIT NOMINATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT AND."
- IN BYLAW 1.3.2, PARAGRAPHS J.1, K.1, AND L.1 (PP. 63-64), INSERT, AFTER "FIRST," THE WORD "FULL."
- IN BYLAW 1.3.2, PARAGRAPHS A, I, AND J (PP. 63-64), REPLACE "PASTOR(S)" WITH "MINISTER(S) OF RELIGION—ORDAINED."
- IN BYLAW 1.3.2, PARAGRAPH M, AND BYLAW 1.3.3, PARAGRAPH B (P. 65), REPLACE "PASTORS" WITH "ORDAINED MINISTERS."

- IN BYLAW 2.1.2 (P. 66) AND IN BYLAW 2.2.6.1 (P. 72), REPLACE “ORDAINED MINISTER” WITH “MINISTER OF RELIGION—ORDAINED.”
- IN BYLAW 1.3.2, PARAGRAPHS M, O, AND P (P. 65), STRIKE “TWO.”
- IN BYLAW 1.3.2, PARAGRAPH O, INSERT AFTER “PROCEDURE (J.4)” “FOR ORDAINED AND COMMISSIONED MINISTER MEMBERS, AND BY MAJORITY VOTE FOR LAY MEMBERS. ”
- IN BYLAW 2.2.6.5, PARAGRAPH E (P. 74), TRANSPOSE “SET” AND “BE.”
- ON PAGES 77 AND 78, THE RED REMARKS REGARDING DISPOSITION OF SECTIONS 3.05 AND 4 ARE TO BE DELETED.

AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, THAT THE AMENDED BYLAWS BE ADOPTED, PENDING APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD.

CHAIRMAN- REV. JAY REINKE

SECRETARY- REV. DR. JOHN SIAS

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5-02

Title of Resolution: TO REVIEW AALC RELATIONSHIPS

Action: ADOPTED

WHEREAS, THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF SYNOD IS, “UNDER THE SCRIPTURE AND LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS,” TO “CONSERVE AND PROMOTE THE UNITY OF THE TRUE FAITH (EPH 4:3-6; 1 COR 1:10), ETC.” (CONST. III.1); AND

WHEREAS, THE TRUE UNITY OF THE CHURCH IS FOUND IN THE PURE TEACHING OF THE GOSPEL AND RIGHT ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS (AC 7); AND

WHEREAS, THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD (LCMS) AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCHES (AALC) DECLARED THEMSELVES TO BE IN FULL ALTAR AND PULPIT FELLOWSHIP IN 2007, JOINTLY STATING THAT THE TWO CHURCH BODIES ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT IN DOCTRINE AND PRACTICE; AND

WHEREAS, “NO RESOLUTION OF SYNOD IMPOSING ANYTHING UPON THE INDIVIDUAL CONGREGATION IS OF BINDING FORCE IF IT IS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WORD OF GOD OR IF IT APPEARS TO BE INEXPEDIENT AS FAR AS THE CONDITION OF THE CONGREGATION IS CONCERNED,” (CONST. VII.1); AND

WHEREAS, THREE CONGREGATIONS OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT OF THE LCMS MINISTER IN COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THERE ARE ALSO AALC CONGREGATIONS; AND

WHEREAS, THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS ON THE PART OF OUR PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS CONCERNING THE DOCTRINE AND PRACTICE OF THE AALC CONGREGATIONS, INCLUDING SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN COMMUNION PRACTICE, UNIONISTIC WORSHIP PRACTICES, AND TEACHING ON LODGE MEMBERSHIP; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT WHERE FORMAL ALTAR AND PULPIT FELLOWSHIP TIES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BUT TRUE UNITY REMAINS IN QUESTION, THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE DISTRICT PATIENTLY AND HUMBL Y SEEK THAT TRUE UNITY WITH NEIGHBORING CONGREGATIONS THROUGH JOINT STUDY UNDER THE WORD OF GOD AND THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT CONGREGATIONS OF THE DISTRICT BE REMINDED THAT IN SITUATIONS WHERE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SYNOD ARE TRUL Y INEXPEDIENT TO THE FAITHFUL TEACHING AND PRACTICE OF THE MEMBER CONGREGATION SUCH RESOLUTIONS OF THE SYNOD ARE NOT TO BE FOLLOWED; AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD MEMORIALIZE THE SYNOD IN CONVENTION TO DIRECT THE SYNODICAL PRESIDENT TO RECONSIDER FELLOWSHIP WITH THE AALC.

CHAIRMAN- REV. JAY REINKE

SECRETARY- REV. DR. JOHN SIAS

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5-03

**Title of Resolution: TO STUDY THE DIVERSITY OF WORSHIP PRACTICES
IN THE MONTANA DISTRICT**

Action: ADOPTED

Re: OVERTURE 5-02, TO ENCOURAGE HARMONY IN MONTANA DISTRICT CHRISTIAN WORSHIP SERVICES

WHEREAS, THE SCRIPTURES SAY THAT IN CHRISTIAN WORSHIP, “ALL THINGS SHOULD BE DONE DECENTLY AND IN ORDER, “ (1 COR. 14:40); AND

WHEREAS, THE SCRIPTURES SAY THAT “ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL, BUT NOT ALL THINGS ARE HELPFUL. ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL, BUT NOT ALL THINGS BUILD UP.” (1 COR. 10:23); AND

WHEREAS, THE FORMULA OF CONCORD STATES THAT THE CHURCH “IN EVERY TIME AND PLACE HAS THE RIGHT, POWER, AND AUTHORITY TO CHANGE, REDUCE, OR EXPAND (CHURCH) PRACTICES ACCORDING TO CIRCUMSTANCES IN AN ORDERLY AND APPROPRIATE MANNER, WITHOUT FRIVOLITY OR OFFENSE, AS SEEMS MOST USEFUL, BENEFICIAL, AND BEST FOR GOOD ORDER, CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINE, EVANGELICAL DECORUM, AND THE BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH.” (FC.SD X.9); AND

WHEREAS, THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION STATES THAT “IT IS LAWFUL FOR BISHOPS OR PASTORS TO ESTABLISH ORDINANCES SO THAT THINGS ARE DONE IN THE CHURCH IN AN ORDERLY FASHION...IT IS FITTING FOR THE CHURCHES TO COMPLY WITH SUCH ORDINANCES FOR THE SAKE OF LOVE AND TRANQUILITY” (AC XXII. 54-55); AND

WHEREAS, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LCMS STATES THAT ONE OF THE “CONDITIONS FOR ACQUIRING AND HOLDING MEMBERSHIP IN THE SYNOD” IS: “EXCLUSIVE USE OF DOCTRINALLY PURE AGENDA, HYMNBOOKS, AND CATECHISMS IN CHURCH AND SCHOOL.” (VI.4); AND

WHEREAS, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LCMS ENCOURAGES “CONGREGATIONS TO STRIVE FOR UNIFORMITY IN CHURCH PRACTICE, BUT ALSO TO DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION OF A VARIETY OF RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES AND CUSTOMS WHICH ARE IN HARMONY WITH OUR COMMON PROFESSION OF FAITH” (III.7); AND

WHEREAS THE SIMPLE SPECIFICATION OF A LIST OF APPROVED RESOURCES FOR WORSHIP WOULD NOT ADEQUATELY SERVE NEEDS OF ETHNIC MINISTRIES OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRUE HARMONY IN OUR DISTRICT; AND

WHEREAS THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT INCLUDES THE EXERCISE OF ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION, ENCOMPASSING BOTH DOCTRINE AND PRACTICE;
THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT IN CONVENTION DIRECT THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS TO REVIEW THE WORSHIP MATERIALS AND PRACTICES IN USE IN THE CONGREGATIONS OF OUR DISTRICT; *AND BE IT FURTHER*

RESOLVED, THAT A REPORT OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT WITHIN THIS TRIENNium, SO THAT MEMBER CONGREGATIONS UNDERSTAND WORSHIP PRACTICES IN THE DISTRICT AND HOW TO EVALUATE WORSHIP PRACTICES IN LIGHT OF THE WORD OF GOD AND THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS, SO AS TO GROW TOGETHER IN UNITY OF DOCTRINE AND HARMONY OF PRACTICE; *AND BE IT FURTHER*

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT PASTORS' CONFERENCE BE DIRECTED TO STUDY THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT AS A CONFERENCE TOPIC; AND BE IT

RESOLVED, THAT THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT BE SUBMITTED TO THE 2015 MONTANA DISTRICT CONVENTION; *AND BE IT FINALLY*

RESOLVED, THAT OUR DISTRICT MEMBERS WELCOME THE GUIDANCE AND ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION OF OUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT IN THESE MATTERS, TO THE JOY AND EDIFYING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD, IN OUR WORSHIP LIFE TOGETHER.

CHAIRMAN- THE REV. JAY REINKE

SECRETARY- THE REV. DR. JOHN SIAS

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5-04

Title of Resolution: TO DECLINE RESPECTFULLY OVERTURE 5-04
(To Review the Salaries of Top Synodical Officers)

ACTION: ADOPTED

Re: OVERTURE 5-04, ACCIDENTALLY OMITTED FROM WORKBOOK

WHEREAS, OVERTURE 5-04 CALLS FOR A REVIEW OF THE SALARIES OF SIX HIGH LEVEL SYNODICAL OFFICERS; AND

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD IS ALREADY CHARGED WITH THE OVERSIGHT OF THESE MATTERS AS CUSTODIAN OF THE BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF THE SYNOD (CONST. XI.E; BYLAWS 1.4 AND 3.3.4); AND

WHEREAS, THE OVERTURE TREATS IN ONE MANNER OFFICES OF DIFFERENT NATURES, INCLUDING BOTH ORDAINED OFFICES AND LAY OFFICES, THE LATTER DRAWING FROM A COMPETITIVE HIRING POOL, *THEREFORE BE IT*

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT IN CONVENTION RESPECTFULLY DECLINE OVERTURE 5-04.

CHAIRMAN- THE REV. JAY REINKE

SECRETARY- THE REV. DR. JOHN SIAS

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5-05

Title of Resolution: TO REDIRECT DISTRICT FUNDS TO SUPPORT LCMS SEMINARIES

ACTION: DECLINED

WHEREAS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE MONTANA DISTRICT IN HIS OPENING REMARKS TO THIS CONVENTION HAS ASKED THE ASSEMBLED DELEGATES TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE REASONS THAT OUR SYNOD EXISTS, SPECIFICALLY TO DO TOGETHER THE WORK THAT FEW CONGREGATIONS COULD DO SEPARATELY; (I.E., SEND MISSIONARIES, TRAIN PASTORS, PUBLISH DOCTRINALLY SOUND TEACHING MATERIALS, AND EXERCISE ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISION); AND,

WHEREAS, REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE SYNODICAL REPRESENTATIVE INDICATE THAT THE SYNOD'S VITAL WORK IN MOST OF THESE AREAS IS BEING TAKEN UP WITH RENEWED ZEAL AND TO GOOD EFFECTS; AND

WHEREAS, IN CONTRAST, IN THE MATTER OF TRAINING PASTORS, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS OF SYNOD'S WORK TOGETHER, THE COST TO EDUCATE MEN WHO EARNESTLY DESIRE TO SERVE THEIR LORD AS PASTORS CONTINUES TO INCREASE AND OUR SEMINARIES CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE TO MEET THEIR BUDGETS AND THE FUNDING FOR THE SEMINARIES FROM THE SYNOD REMAINS AT NEARLY ZERO; BE IT THEREFORE

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT IN CONVENTION INSTRUCT THE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO CHANGE OUR "SYNODICAL BUDGET PLEDGE" FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2013 FROM TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT (25%) OF THE TOTAL "PROJECTED CONGREGATION PLEDGE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO DISTRICT AND SYNOD SUPPORT" TO TWENTY PERCENT (20%) AND TO REDIRECT THAT FIVE PERCENT¹ (5%) EQUALLY TO THE UNDESIGNATED FUNDS OF OUR TWO SYNODICAL SEMINARIES WITH THE 2.5% FOR CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY-FORT WAYNE BE GIVEN TO THE ALUMNI MATCHING PROGRAM UNTIL THE \$150,000 GOAL IS REACHED. WHEN THE GOAL IS REACHED THEN THE 2.5% IS DIRECTED TO THE CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY-FORT WAYNE UNDESIGNATED FUNDS; AND BE IN FURTHER

RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA DISTRICT IN CONVENTION MEMORIALIZES THE PRESIDENT AND OFFICERS OF THE SYNOD TO DILIGENTLY DISCUSS AND WORK CLOSELY WITH DISTRICT PRESIDENTS TO LIKewise SUPPORT OUR FUTURE PASTORS BY THUS SUPPORTING OUR SEMINARIES.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED FROM THE FLOOR BY REV. RYAN D. WENDT

¹ THIS NUMBER IS APPROXIMATELY \$28,500 IF USING THE 2012 PROJECTED BUDGET NUMBERS. (5% OF THE \$570,000 "PROJECTED CONGREGATION PLEDGE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO DISTRICT AND SYNOD SUPPORT."

Montana District Statistical Report - June to December 2009

ORADAINED MINISTERS:

Entered the District

Carver, David	Ordained & Installed 7/5/09 as Sole Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Stevensville, by Terry Forke
Grayl, Samuel	Installed 6/1/09 as Sole Pastor of First Lutheran Church, Bozeman.
Sias, John	Ordained & Installed as Sole Pastor of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Colstrip, by Terry Forke.

Changes Within the District

New school – First Lutheran Classical School, Missoula started August 2009

Called to Glory

Draper, George	Called to glory on 8/14/09
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COMMISSIONED MINISTERS:

Entered the District

Lee, Debra	Commissioned and Installed 12/6/09 at Trinity, Great Falls, by Rev. Kent Stenzel
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Montana Statistical Report - 2010

ORDAINED MINISTERS:

Entered the District

Baikie, Marcus	Ordained & Installed 9/12/10 as Sole Pastor of Concordia, Forsyth, and Trinity, Hysham by James Hageman
Gordish, Tim	Installed 9/26/10 as Sole Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Eureka by Christopher Tabbert
Whaley, Kyle	Ordained & Installed 6/27/10 at Mt Calvary Lutheran Church, Polson, MT by Terry Forke

Changes Within the District

Christiansen, Eric	Emeritus Status, 11/7/10
Daub, Timothy	Removed from Roster 5/17/10
Harr, Wade	Installed 8/15/10 as Sole Pastor of First Lutheran Church, Fort Benton by Terry Forke
Mitchell, Robert	Installed 9/26/10 as Sole Pastor of St. John, Deer Lodge By Terry Forke
Nicolaus, Mark	Installed 1/31/10 as Missionary-at-Large by Terry Forke
Stenzel, Kent	Emeritus Status, 9/1/10
Vallie, John	Installed as Sole Pastor 7/11/10 at Trinity, Wolf Point & Faith, Glasgow by James Hageman

New church start, Thompson Falls, 1/31/10

Transferred to Other Districts

DeMuth, Greg	Transferred to Minnesota North
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COMMISSIONED MINISTERS:

Entered the District

JeAnne Faris	Installed 4/18/10 as Director of Childcare, Trinity Kalispell by Rev. Mark Cutler
Kathryn (Douglas) Minarek	Installed 8/15/10 Trinity, Billings by Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht

Transferred to Other Districts

Hobus, David

Transferred to Westside Lutheran School Association, Cornelius,
OR, 8/1/10**Montana District Statistical Report – 2011****ORDAINED MINISTERS:****Entered the District**

Christensen, Mark

Ordained & Installed 12/4/11 as Specific Ministry Pastor at First
Lutheran Church, Missoula, by Terry Forke

Paul, Gerald

Installed 10/9/11 as Sole Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church,
Great Falls by Terry Forke

Preus, David

Ordained & Installed 8/28/11 as Assistant Pastor at Mount
Olive, Billings by Terry Forke

Shupe, Paul

Installed 9/25/11 as Sole Pastor at St. John, Bridger & St. Paul,
Belfry by Terry Forke

Thomas, Steven

Installed 6/19/11 as Sole Pastor at St. John, Libby by Terry Forke

Timber, Park

Ordained & Installed 8/14/11 as Associate Pastor at Circle of Life,
Lame Deer, by Terry Forke**Changes Within the District**

Preus, David

Status change November 20, 2011 from Assistant to Associate

Pastor

Called to Glory

Blunck, Paul

Called to glory on February 10, 2011

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS:**Changes Within the District**

Topp, David

Installed as principal of Trinity School, Kalispell on 6/26/11 by
Rev. Dr. Mark Cutler

Sutton, Melissa

Removed from roster 2/11/11

Van Luchene, Darrell

Emeritus transferred from Minnesota South District 6/27/11

Van Luchene, Sue Zan

Emeritus transferred from Minnesota South District 6/27/11

Montana District Statistical Report – January to May 2012**ORDAINED MINISTERS:****Entered the District**

Schneider, Donald

Transferred from California/Nevada/Hawaii District
3/07/12 as a Candidate**Changes Within the District**

Linderman, Bruce

Emeritus 2/20/12

Wilmot, Timothy

Removed from roster

Transferred to Other Districts

Herman, Justin

Transferred to CTS, Fort Wayne, IN

New Church

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Thompson Falls, MT on February 19, 2012

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS:**Changes Within the District**

Speed, Cynthia

Completed Colloquy

Ritter, Shannon

Removed from roster

CONGREGATIONAL ANNIVERSARIES

In 2010

55	Holy Cross, Eureka
55	St. John, Fairfield
80	St. John, Fairview
90	Trinity, Harlowtown
115	Trinity, Kalispell
10	Circle of Life, Lame Deer
110	First, Missoula
95	St. Paul, Ronan
50	Trinity, Superior
80	Trinity, Wolf Point

In 2011

115	Redeemer, Anaconda
85	Trinity, Angela (Rock Springs)
95	St. John, Belfry
45	Christ the King, Billings
55	Our Redeemer, Columbia Falls
45	Faith, Condon
60	Our Savior, Denton
80	Grace, Fallon
50	Christ Lutheran, Great Falls
55	Peace, Great Falls
105	Trinity, Miles City
45	Messiah, Missoula
30	Mt. Calvary, Polson
45	Holy Cross, Seeley Lake
85	Grace, Three Forks

In 2012

10	Holy Trinity, Belgrade
40	Hope, Billings
30	Our Savior, Billings
100	St. Paul, Bridger
50	Faith, Condon
15	Crow Lutheran Ministry, Crow Agency
30	Shepherd of the Hills, Ennis
120	Trinity, Great Falls
70	Redeemer, Hardin
125	First, Helena
70	Trinity, Hysham
95	St. Paul, Lewistown
100	Trinity, Plentywood
100	St. Paul, Roundup
65	Zion, St. Ignatius

2012 ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

Marcus Baikie	2	Kevin Peterson	13
Dennis Bauer	30	David Preus	1
Gil Berninghaus	18	Arlo Pullman	25
William Bliese	4	Darold Reiner	40
David Carver	3	Jay Reinke	23
Eric Christiansen	8	David Renfro	26
Mark Christensen	1	Timothy Richholt	30
Al Ebel	5	Daniel Rinderknecht	29
Mark Cutler	24	Vern Sandersfeld	29
Gale Everson	34	Herbert Schiefelbein	60
Arnold Fischer	12	Steven Schlund	29
Terry Forke	29	Donald Schneider	18
Tim Gordish	14	Howard Schreibeis	27
Sam Grayl	8	Mark Schultz	29
Mark Grunst	31	Paul Shupe	1
James Hageman	27	John Sias	3
Wade Harr	19	Ken Stensrud	4
David Hasselbrook	5	Kent Stenzel	39
Erik Iverson	6	Eric Stinnett	8
Daniel Jacobs	26	Christopher Tabbert	14
Martin Kaarre	29	Steven Thomas	13
James Koss	16	Doug Thompson	15
Raymond Larson	37	Richard Thompson	39
Robert Lane	14	Park Timber	1
Carl Lehmann	17	John Vallie	12
Bruce Linderman	36	Myron Wackler	30
James Maxwell	3	Christopher Wareham	32
Jason Menagh	25	David Warner	8
Larry Miller	29	Robert Weishoff	32
Robert Mitchell	17	Ryan Wendt	8
Matt Nelson	8	Kyle Whaley	2
Mark Nicolaus	42	Raymond Wiegert	53
Daniel Ondov	53	Kenneth Zoeller	13
Gerald Paul	12		

2012 Commissioned Ministers - Active Anniversaries

Rebecca Braaten	30	Kristin McCauley	10
Joann Cutler	27	Laura McCoy	11
Lynne Erger	36	Kathryn Minarik	2
JeAnne Faris	2	Suzanne Rasmussen	37
Kenneth Holste	43	Amy Schleicher	8
Melody Johnson	25	Jason Schleicher	8
Becky Kern	30	Lisa Steinbrenner	8
Thomas Kosche	10	Richard Thomas	30
Debbie Lee	4	David Topp	13
Ted Loomans	17		

Circuit Counselor Triennial Report 2009-2012

Circuit Name: Eastern
Counselor: REV. JAMES HAGEMAN

Congregational Visits:

Regular - 0
Special Issues - 0
Phone counsel - 4 (with pastors)
School visits - 0

Conferences:

Winkel - 20
Circuit (Quad, South/East) - 2
District Pastors - 2
Synodical - 0

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors - 5 (including Skype)
Forums - 1
Convocations - 0
Other - 0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium - 2
Current vacancies - 0
Meetings regarding calls - 4
Installation/Ordinations - 2

Circuit Name: Central
Counselor: Rev. Steven R. Schlund

** I served as Circuit Counselor for only two years of the past triennium. I served from the summer of 2010 until the present*

Congregational Visits:

Regular - 0
Special Issues - 0
Phone counsel - 14
School visits - 0

Conferences:

Winkel - 14
Quad Circuit - 2
District Pastors - 2
Synodical - 0

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors - 6
Forums - 1
Convocations - 0
Other - 4

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium - 2
Current vacancies - 1
Meetings regarding calls
Trinity, Great Falls - 15
Zion, Power/St. John, Fairfield - 4
Installations/Ordinations - 1

Circuit Name: Divide
Counselor: REV. BRUCE LINDERMAN

Congregational Visits:

Regular - 0
Special Issues - 4
Phone counsel - 3
School visits - 2

Conferences:

Winkel - 24
Circuit (Quad, South/East) - 3
District Pastors - 3
Synodical - 0

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors - 7
Forums - 0
Convocations - 0
Other - 0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium - 1
Current vacancies - 0
Meetings regarding calls - 4
Installation/Ordinations - 1

Circuit Name: Southern
Counselor: Rev. Doug Thompson

Congregational Visits:

Regular - 1
Special Issues - 3
Phone counsel - 1
School visits - 2

Conferences:

Winkel - 21
Circuit (South/East) - 3
District Pastors - 3
Synodical - 0
Free Conference - 1

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors - 5
Forums - 2
Convocations - 0
Other - 0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium - 2 (Trinity Harlo, Bridger/Belfry)
Current vacancies - 0
Meetings regarding calls - 19 (Bridger/Belfry, Trinity Harlo, Mount Olive)
Installation/Ordinations - 4 (Sias, Forke, Preus, Schupe)

Circuit Counselor Triennial Report 2009-2012

Circuit Name: Flathead
Counselor: Rev. Dr. Mark Cutler

Congregational Visits:

Regular - 0
Special Issues - 0
Phone counsel - 13
School visits - 0

Conferences:

Winkel - 18
Circuit (Quad, South/East) - 3
District Pastors - 3
Synodical - 0

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors - 6
Forums - 1
Convocations - 0
Other - 3

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium - 4
Current vacancies - 0
Meetings regarding calls - 5
Installation/Ordinations - 4

I have felt privileged to serve the congregations of the Flathead Circuit of the Montana District. During my service, I have had an opportunity to serve four congregations during a time of vacancy. (Mt. Calvary

Lutheran Church in Polson, Zion Lutheran Church in St. Ignatius, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ronan, and St. John Lutheran Church in Libby) I want to personally thank these congregations for their support, flexibility, and hard work during their vacancies. I also want to thank the pastors who served as either vacancy pastors or fill-in Sunday morning preachers. Finally, I also want to thank my own congregation for allowing me to serve in this capacity. Every congregation in the Flathead Circuit has a resident pastor in place at this time. Therefore, I especially thank the Lord for calling faithful pastors into these unique congregations to serve as their shepherd. Since the demands in my own parish have become even more acute, with Pastor Greg DeMuth accepting a call to serve as Senior Pastor of First Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, I have decided not to serve as circuit counselor for another term. I am sure Pastor Matthew Nelson from Columbia Falls will serve our circuit well. I have especially enjoyed getting to know the other circuit pastors in our district through our counselor meetings. I have also enjoyed leading in our monthly circuit pastors meetings. The congregation in Creston was also able to open its doors to a brand new building in 2011. What a blessing to be involved in the Montana District!

Circuit Name Western
Counselor Rev. Raymond Everet Larson, Sr.

Congregational Visits:

Regular - 19
Special Issues - 1
Phone counsel - 11
School visits - 0

Conferences:

Winkel - 14
Circuit (Quad, South/East) - 3
District Pastors - 2
Synodical - 0

Meetings:

Circuit Counselors - 7
Forums - 2
Convocations - 1
Other - 0

Vacancies and Calls:

Vacancies during triennium - 2
Current vacancies - 1
Meetings regarding calls - 1
Installations/Ordinations - 2

Notes:

Our Convocation this triennium featured Rev. Glenn Merritt, Synodical Director of Disaster Response, speaking on Synodical relief efforts our Synod has accomplished in various parts of the world, and throughout the U. S.

Among the topics discussed at our Winkels these three years were several thesis of Walther's Church and Ministry, and various topics from the Synod's publication, "This We Believe."

Due to several personal and District business trips I took since the last Convention, I had to miss seven of our 21 Winkels. In my absence, Pastor Vernon Sandersfeld chaired those seven Winkels.

During the triennium I met individually with five of the pastors of the Western Circuit to allow them to assess their ministries, and to discuss opportunities for their families and congregations in their communities.

GOSPEL of MARK BIBLE STUDY

During the Convention, over 5 hours were dedicated to the study of the Gospel of Mark. The delegates listened as Rev. Arlo Pullmann read several chapters each day. Following each daily reading, the delegates formed small groups and discussed the Gospel lessons by answering a list of prepared questions. By the end of the Convention, the entire Gospel of Mark had been read and studied by the delegates.

Amicus Christi Edee Anderson

Edee Anderson and her husband Jim moved to Deer Lodge, Montana in the summer of 1971, shortly after their marriage and graduations from the University of Montana. One of their first actions was to transfer their church membership to St. John Lutheran Church, LCMS in Deer Lodge. Naturally, Edee became a member of the St. John LWML and has actively served in local, zone, and District LWML activities since that time. She has held offices at all levels and currently serves as Montana District Scholarship Chairman, a position she has held for many years. Edee also began teaching Sunday school at St. John soon after their arrival and continues in that capacity as needed today.

A natural extension of a Sunday school teacher is to make sure the kids get to church summer camp. When the first of Jim and Edee's children, along with other St. John campers, needed a ride to the District Youth Camp in 1983, Edee volunteered to provide transportation. She decided it would be better to help in the camp kitchen for a week rather than to drive back to Deer Lodge only to make the return trip in a few days. The next year she was asked to serve as Head Cook for the camp. So began her long "career" as Queen of the Camp Kitchen at the Montana District Youth Camp in Red Lodge. It was the philosophy of the camp director at that time, Rev. Clare Skov, that food would cost less if you cook what the kids will eat. And, since it is a proven fact that children return to where good food is served, the camp was assured of a steady supply of return campers the next year. This has proven true through the years as Edee continues to plan the menus and purchase the food for all three Red Lodge Camps. Campers continue to return and bring their friends for Good Lutheran Christian teaching and Great (not the typical) Camp Cuisine lovingly prepared by Edee and her able assistants. She also manages the First Aid station at the camp where she is proficient at applying dressings and medications (anything but stitches) to injured, bitten or otherwise stricken campers.

Jim and Edee have retired in Deer Lodge where they continue as Servants of Christ at St. John. Edee is known far and wide for her culinary and organizational skills at church sponsored dinners, Thrivent fundraisers and the annual Tri-county Fair Breakfast which is

sponsored by St. John. They have five grown children, all of whom attended the Red Lodge Camps as campers, counselors, and/or kitchen helpers over the years.

Thank you, Edee, for your many years as a “Servant of Christ” in St. John, The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, and The Montana District LCMS Youth Camps.

Amicus Christi

Rev. Raymond Paul Wiegert

Rev. Wiegert has been a deeply respected and dearly loved servant in the LCMS for more than 50 years, 36 of those years in Montana. He grew up assuming he would be a pastor; his own father was an LCMS pastor. Ray was born in Danvers, Illinois, to Rev. Arthur and Louise Wiegert; that parsonage would know its share of joy and grief. He was the third of nine children, but Ray would lose five of those siblings: two in infancy, two in early childhood and a younger brother at age 37. Of the surviving siblings, the two sisters are nurses and the brother is a retired LCMS pastor.

Ray began parochial school with first grade when he would ride with his older sister on the “interurban” (trolley) twelve miles to Bloomington to attend Trinity Lutheran School. When his father accepted a call to Concordia Lutheran Church in Springfield, IL in 1944 he continued his education at Concordia’s elementary school. After a little more than two years of public high school in Springfield, Ray’s father accepted a call to Zion Lutheran in Farmersville, IL. Ray finished his junior year there. As a high school senior Ray was enrolled at prep school, Concordia Academy, St. Paul, MN. Ray was short just one English credit at the end of his junior year, but all the usual languages for ministerial preparation had to be taken! In what normally spanned three years Ray’s last year of high school consisted of English and ministerial prep courses: beginning Latin, beginning German and beginning Greek! He graduated in 1953.

There were two more years of junior college at St. Paul and then Ray entered Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield conveniently near his home. Vicarage was at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Council Bluffs, Iowa under District President Lobeck. Ray gained more than languages at St. Paul, after vicarage Ray married Dolores Betty Heuer August 27, 1958, whom he had met at Concordia, St. Paul. Dolores’ home church was shared with Ray’s relatives and as he says, “the attraction was immediate!” Together Ray and Dolores went to Springfield to finish the final year of seminary.

Ray’s first call was to a subsidized parish of the Iowa West District numbering a little more than 100 communicants: Immanuel Lutheran in Osceola, Iowa. Ordination and Installation took place on July 5, 1959. LCMS congregations were not so close together in southern Iowa, and people drove from as far away as 40 miles; it would prepare them for Montana. Two boys, Neal and Mark were born in Osceola.

After four and a half years Ray accepted the call to St. John Lutheran Church and School near

Roselle, Illinois. The family spent eleven and a half years there, the church grew to 425 communicants, and the school reached 160 students in eight grades. The congregation erected an addition to the school including six classrooms and a gymnasium. Also during that time Renee, their beautiful daughter, was born. In 1968 Ray was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease. Ray has contended with that condition by God's grace for many years, but it did not stop the ministry or debilitate the minister.

Ray was called to Messiah Lutheran in Missoula in August of 1975. Ray says, "It was a delight right from the start!" The people were positive; their attitudes were refreshing and the Wiegerts never regretted moving west and so far from home. Ray was appointed District Missions Committee Chairman in 1978 and served joyfully until 1988. As part of his Mission Committee duties Ray visited many congregations throughout the district and met hundreds of God's wonderful people. Ray was elected Circuit Counselor of the Western Circuit in 1991 and served in that position until 1997. In 2005 Ray was appointed to the District Board of Directors.

A devastating blow would come to the Wiegert family in late 1985 when their daughter Renee, at 19, was diagnosed with lymphoma. Renee died after 5 months of illness. "Her death had a tremendous impact on my life and ministry. Our loving Savior was by our side as he worked through very caring and compassionate people."

Both of Ray and Dolores' boys live in Montana. Neal lives with his family near Stevensville and works as a graphic artist at the University of Montana. Mark is a Thrivent representative living Lewistown. They have both married and the Wiegerts enjoy six grandchildren. After more than twenty-seven years as pastor of Messiah Ray retired at the end of January in 2002, but that retirement was very short! Ray had started serving Trinity Lutheran in Superior shortly before this, in 2000. The following fall after retiring Trinity extended a call to pastor Wiegert and he was formally installed there in October of 2002. Ray has continued to drive the many miles from his home up the "Rattlesnake" to Trinity to this day.

It would serve us all well to do the math of miles, of messages and years. Ray has been preaching God's word, baptizing God's people, sharing His Holy Meal and serving the church at large for over 50 years with steadfastness and sincerity. His brothers in the ministry, the people in the pews and congregations scattered over the Synod greatly value his smile and his voice of calm and His preaching of clear salvation through the grace of Jesus Christ. We can see how He has carried the cross and lived the cross. Ray and Dolores are gracious, beautiful servants of our Lord. Shepherds would be blessed to walk as faithfully. Pastors and wives would be blessed to live as lovingly and all of God's people can pray thankfully for Ray and Dolores Wiegert. We have often heard of the three great "sola's" of the reformation, but in fact some count five: sola fide, sola gratia, sola scriptura and solus Christus (faith, grace, scripture and Christ alone), but to these we rightly add three more letters. It is what JS Bach used to sign to his music: "sdg" or soli Deo Gloria: to God alone be the glory! Ray wanted to end by saying, "God has been good! All glory is His alone! I truly thank Him that He has counted me worthy of being His instrument to serve in His Kingdom. He has surrounded me with caring, supportive people in my family and in the Church."

Amen, dear friend. Amen, dear friend of Christ!

Thank you from God's people of the Montana-District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

CALLED TO GLORY

Rev. Paul Blunck was born on February 3, 1927 to Conrad and Frieda Blunck in New York, N.Y. He was called to glory on February 10, 2011 in San Diego from a stroke. A service was held at First Lutheran Church, Missoula, on February 20, 2011 with a military burial at Missoula City Cemetery.

After serving in the occupation forces in Italy in World War II, he graduated from Montana State University in 1952 and Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill in 1957. He also received a Master of Education degree from MSU in 1965. Rev. Blunck served Harlowton and Roundup from 1957-1964, followed by First Lutheran, Missoula from 1965-1993. He served as First and Second Vice President, Secretary, Missions Committee Chairman and on nearly every District committee. He is survived by his wife, Doris; sons Reginald, John, and Michael; and three daughters, Paula, Lisa, and Heidi.

Rev. George Draper was born on August 9, 1944 in Sacramento, CA to George L. Sr. and Nina Draper. He was called to glory on August 14, 2009, in Billings, MT. A service was held at Mount Olive Church, Billings.

He earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, OR in 1978. He worked as a construction manager in Texas for several years before moving to Ft. Wayne, IN where he attended Concordia Theological Seminary and received a Masters of Divinity. Rev. Draper served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Wolf Point, MT and Faith Lutheran Church in Glasgow, MT from June 1999 until July of 2009. He is survived by his wife, Gerry; and children Karin, Andrea, Mark, Katherine, and Eddie.