

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Rocky Mountain District Convention
June 18, 2009 Proceedings

Thursday, June 18, 2009

7:00 p.m. Opening of Convention in the name of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, Rev. President Golter, RMD President.

- Delegate orientation, Mr. Doug Ullmann, RMD Office, Business Manager.
 - explanation & test of the electronic voting system
- Devotion on the Third Article, President Golter.

7:20 Presentation of the Credentials Report, Rev. Monte Gusewelle

- Voting Delegates: 228 (lay & Pastoral)
- Advisory Delegates: 40
- Total Delegates: 268
- Delegates present (counted by electronic vote): 212
- Motion to Accept Agenda to RMD 2009:
 - ADOPTED.
- Presentation of the Standing Rules for the Convention, Pr. Roger Schlechte (from p. 61 of overtures with one change: Strike #6.
 - **2009-4-05 TO RECOMMEND THE ADOPTION OF SPECIAL STANDING RULES FOR THE 2009 CONVENTION**
 - Amendment: #4: change “2-minute rule” to “4-minute rule”
 - FAILED
 - **2009-4-05: ADOPTED**
 - Resolutions: **2009-01-04; 2009-01-12; 2009-01-13; 2009-01-14; 2009-01-15; 2009-01-16; 2009-01-17; 2009-3-03; 2009-4-01** will not be able to be presented to the Synodical Convention due to Synodical By Law 3.1.6.2.
- Nominations Report: Pr. Gary Buss
 - Additions to slate of nominations (received late & handed out to convention), Pr. Gary Buss:
 - Secretary: Rev. Brad Stoltenow
 - Board of Directors: Mr. Dan Gehrke, Commissioned Minister, Central Area; Mr. Brent Howard, Commissioned Minister, Central Area; Mrs. Sandy Wendelin, Commissioned Minister, Central Area; Mr. Jim Tuell, Laymen, Central Area; Mr. Jerry Buchholz, Layperson, Eastern; Mr. Gary Anderson, Layperson, Western.
 - Nominating Committee: Dr. Al Czanderna, Layperson, Central Area; Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller, Pastor, Central Area
 - Balloting for President—only one nomination met all the requirements of By law 3.01.B4, therefore, according to by-law 3.01.B5, nominations are solicited from the floor (none offered)
 - Rev. Randy Golter elected by acclamation.
 - Request for Privilege granted to Pr. Golter to introduce his family: beloved wife, Elizabeth and sons Jacob (Lindsay), and Caleb.
 - Balloting for Vice President nominations, Dr. Erv Holle (nominees listed on p. 2 of Nominations report)
 - **1st Vice President:** no majority on 1st ballot

- Runoff between Pr. Allen Anderson and Randy Walquist
 - Rev. Allen Anderson Elected
- **Central Vice President:** Runoff between Pr. Schlechte & Pr. Stoltenow
 - Rev. Roger Schlechte Elected
- Eastern Area Vice President: Removed from ballot due to Rev. Anderson's election.
- **Southern Area Vice President:** Rev. Douglas Escue Elected
- **Western Area Vice President:** Rev. Gary Trickey Elected
 - Ranking of Vice Presidents:
 - **2nd Vice President:** Run off between Pr. Schlechte & Pr. Escue
 - Rev. Doug Escue
 - **3rd Vice President:** Rev. Roger Schlechte
 - **4th Vice President:** Rev. Gary Trickey
- **District Secretary:** Run off: Pr. Harmon, Pr. Stoltenow, Pr. Piepkorn
 - Run off: Pr. Harmon & Pr. Stoltenow
 - Rev. Robert Harmon Elected
- **Board of Directors:** (including additions)
 - nominations from the floor: Nathan Raugutt from Central Area
 - Request to nominate from the floor a person who has verbally agreed to stand, but no written consent will be available until tomorrow: ADOPTED
 - Nomination: Mrs. Cheryl Olson, Eastern Area
 - **Commissioned Minister, Western Area,** Mr. Duane Nyen by acclamation
 - **Commissioned Minister, Central Area,** Run off, Mr. Brandhorst, Mr. Gehrke, Mrs. Wendelin,
 - Run off, Mr. Brandhorst, Mrs. Wendelin
 - Mr. Ronald Brandhorst Elected
 - **Lay Person, Western Area,** Mr. Gary Anderson
 - **Lay Person, Southern Area:**
 - Motion to drop the bottom two, tied at 15.08 % ADOPTED
 - Runoff, Mr. Berrong and Mr. Doughty
 - Mr. Robert Doughty, Elected

8:45 President's Address, Rev. Randy Golter

- "I Love the Church" The doctrine of the church

9:15 Greetings: from

- former RMD President, Rev. John Peterson (1986-1993)
- former RMD President, Rev. Roger Krause (1993-2003)

9:20 World Missions, Rev. David Birner, Associate Executive Director of International Mission Team

9:30 Dr. L. Dean Hemplemann, Director *What a Way*

- Video Presentation: *Workers for the Harvest*

9:35 Closing Devotion, Rev. Allen Anderson, First Vice President

Friday, June 19, 2009

8:00 Opening Prayer, President Golter

- Bible Study, Dr. Wilhelm Weber
 - The Gospel of St. John on Mission

- 8:30 Dr. David Tswaedi, Bishop of The Lutheran Church of South Africa
- Essay: *Lutheran Mission in an African Context: What Can We Learn?*
- 9:15 Floor Committees/Elections (Mr. Gusewelle, Credentials, reports 197 voting delegates present)
- **Board of Directors, Layperson #2, Southern Area**
 - Mr. Tom Berrong Elected
 - **Board of Directors, Layperson, Central Area**
 - Mr. Jim Tuell Elected
 - **Board of Directors, Layperson, Eastern Area**
 - Runoff between Cheryl Olson & Dale Stoner
 - Mr. Dale Stoner Elected
 - **Board of Directors, Layperson #2, Eastern Area**
 - Mrs. Cheryl Olson, Elected
- 9:30 Administration Floor Committee, Rev. Bill Heithold
- **2009-03-02a TO CONSIDER A FUND TO ASSIST CONGREGATIONS, ET AL, WITH HEALTH CARE**
 - Amendment: Change resolve to read: **“That the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain District study the feasibility, the establishment of a fund perhaps endowment based, to assist congregations for the express purpose of supplementing the Concordia Health Plan Services/Concordia Health Plan premiums and report back at the 2012 RMD Convention”**
 - Amendment: ADOPTED
 - **2009-03-02a** ADOPTED as amended
 - **2009-03-04 MOTIONS TO MEMORIALIZE THE SYNOD TO DIRECT CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE TO PUT THE 1986 TRANSLATION OF LUTHER’S SMALL CATECHISM INTO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN**
 - Motion to Amend the resolved to conclude: “for non-profit use only”
 - [note: amendment cannot be implemented because law will not allow strings attached to material released to public domain]
 - By Consensus: Amendment to the Amendment: Strike “~~Public Domain~~” and replace with “For non-profit use only”
 - Amendment is ADOPTED
 - **2009-03-04** ADOPTED
- 10:00 Missions Floor Committee, Rev. Dr. Henry Corcoran,
- **2009-02-01A “MISSION: SOUTHERN AFRICA” PROJECT BE CONTINUED**
 - Motion to amend: In the first resolved, insert: “and or exceeding” after the words “by completing”
 - Amendment ADOPTED
- 10:15 ORDERS OF THE DAY (the above resolution as amended will be addressed later)
- 10:15 Mission Presentation, Rev. Dr. Mark Larson: *Eyes to See the Mission*
- Evangelism Team Report, Mrs. Mary Marten, Chairwoman (highlights of team’s written convention report)
 - Mr. Damon Tobias reports on the “Conversations of Grace” Conference November, 2009, Albuquerque, NM
 - Mr. Tobias issued a call for volunteers
 - New Ministries Report, Mrs. Valerie Stewart (Video presentation)
- 10:50 Blue Ribbon Task Force on Structure and Governance (BRTFSSG), Rev. John Braunersreuther, assistant to President Kieschnick

- Video greeting from President Kieschnick & report on the BRTFSSG.
 - Power Point Presentation on the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance
 - Response Survey was handed out to convention attendees who were encouraged to write down how they feel about each of the 20 summarized proposals presented in the Power Point presentation.
- 11:55 RMD Lutheran Women Missionary League presentation/greeting, Mrs. Mary Marten on behalf of Susan Weiner, who was unable to attend.
- 12:00 RMD Lutheran Laymen's League, presentation/greeting, Mr. Gerland Klein
- 12:05 Children's Choir with Denver area Lutheran Early Childhood Centers: Gwen Marshall, Early Childhood Director of Trinity Lutheran, Denver.
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:15 Bible Study, Dr. Wilhelm Weber
- 1:45 Presentation Continued: Missions in an African Context, Dr. Tswaedi, Bishop of The Lutheran Church of Southern Africa
- 2:30 Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance (BRTFSSG), Rev. John Braunersreuther
- Question and answer session
 - **Motion** to extend orders of the day to continue Q & A for 30 minutes beyond schedule:
 - DEFEATED
- 3:35 Credentials Report, Mr. Gusewelle : 232 Voting Delegates (108 pastors and 124 lay, 34 Advisory and 1 youth delegate)
- polling of the delegates: 207 voting delegates are present
- 3:38 Bylaws Committee, Rev. Roger Schlechte
- **2009-4-06 TO ADD A STANDING RULE**
 - ADOPTED
- 3:42 Nominations Committee, Rev. Gary Bus
- Request nominations from the floor for the Nominating Committee
 - (none forthcoming, slate is closed)
- 3:45 Elections, Dr. Erv Holle
- **Nominating Committee, Commissioned Minister, At Large:**
 - Mr. Brent Howard
 - **Nominating Committee, Lay person:** runoff between Mr. Stoner & Mr. Czanderna
 - Dr. Al Czanderna, Central Area
 - **Nominating Committee, Lay person:**
 - Mr. Dale Stoner, Eastern Area
 - **Nominating Committee, Pastor**
 - Rev. Gary Piepkorn, Southern Area, by acclamation.
 - **Nominating Committee, Pastor**
 - Rev. Gary Buss, Western Area
 - **Circuit Counselor Slate** (as published in Convention Workbook)
 - RATIFIED
 - **Ballot To Make All Elections Unanimous**
 - ADOPTED
 - Elections closed with Prayer thanking Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Dr. Erv Holle.
- 4:00 Mission Floor Committee, Rev. Dr. Corcoran
- **2009-02-01A "MISSION: SOUTHERN AFRICA" PROJECT BE CONTINUED**
 - Amendment: Add to last resolve: "and add a new goal of another \$500,000.00 for the next triennium"

- DEFEATED
- Amendment: Strike “~~District oversight~~” in the second resolved and add 3rd resolved which reads: “That the RMD Convention give authority to RMD President to appoint a non standing committee to look into further funding of Mission South Africa”
- ADOPTED
- Resolutions **2009-02-01A**: ADOPTED as Amended

4:25 Motion from the floor, Rev. Doug Escue

- Resolution **2009-02-04 TO HAVE THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT (RMD) RAISE SPECIAL APPEAL MISSION FUNDS AND ALLOCATE THEM BETWEEN BOTH NATIONAL MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS**
 - Motion referred back to committee

4:30 Theological Unity Floor Committee, Rev. Shearier

- **2009-01-11-A TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO MEMORIALIZE THE 2010 SYNODICAL CONVENTION TO CONTINUE DISTRICT LICENSED DEACON PROGRAMS AND TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS OF SYNOD TO SUPPORT THE CALLING AND ORDAINING OF ELIGIBLE DEACONS TO THE PASTORAL OFFICE**
 - Amendment: Add to the resolved “rostering them as ordained ministers and amending the by laws accordingly” (*Amendment is dropped because orders of the day called before it could be voted on*)

Orders of the Day Called

4:45 Disaster Response Team Report, Rev. Dennis Lucero

4:50 District South African Non Standing Committee Report, Rev. Gary Rahe

- \$76,432.12, Convention Offering
- \$456,432 total raised to date with more monies pledged.

5:05 LCMS World Relief/Human Care Report, Rev. Matthew Harrison, Executive Director

5:15 Dinner

6:35 Bylaw Floor Committee, Rev. Roger Schlichte

- Changes since Bylaws & Handbook were printed for Convention:
 - p. 22, Preamble: place a period (.) after ‘static’ and delete rest of the sentence.
 - next sentence, change ‘~~do~~’ to ‘should’
 - p. 26, Add to the end of 1.04 B. “Big Springs, Nebraska”
 - p. 44, 7.01 A. 9: Add: “in a variety of ways” after the words: ‘*After obtaining input*’
 - p.46-47: Strike entire item ~~13~~, and renumber remaining list accordingly.
 - p. 48 8.01 C. amendment to strike: “~~and shall not be in charge of a congregation, hold a chair at any educational institution or be called as an assistant pastor~~”
 - ADOPTED
- **2009-4-03 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE RMD BYLAWS (P. 22 of overtures)**
 - ADOPTED
- **2009-4-04 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE RMD HANDBOOK OF OPERATIONS (P. 42)**
 - Motion to Amend Article II: 8.01. C: Strike: “~~and shall not be in charge of a congregation, hold a chair at any educational institution or be called as an assistant pastor~~”
 - ADOPTED
 - **2009-4-04** ADOPTED as amended

- **2009-4-07 TO DIRECT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO PREPARE MODIFICATION TO THE ELECTION BYLAWS FOR THE NEXT CONVENTION**
 - ADOPTED
- 7:00 Missions Floor Committee, Rev. Dr. Corcoran
- **2009-02-02a TO PRAISE GOD FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT MISSION: SOUTHERN AFRICA**
 - Motion to Amend: Add to the end of the resolved: “, for the partnership and fellowship that He has created between our congregations and the congregations of the Lutheran Church of Southern Africa, and, in particular, for the continued proclamation of the Gospel among these congregations”
 - ADOPTED by consensus
 - **2009-02-02a** ADOPTED as amended
 - Convention Stands and Sings the Doxology!
- 7:20 Orders of the Day
- 7:20 Healthier Ministries Report, Rev. Dr. Michael Eckelkamp
- Rev. Kurt Schilling, and Rev. Chris Mathis report on being mentored within the church and the L’Chaim (to life) program for church workers.
- 7:35 Theological Unity Floor Committee, Rev. Shearier
- **2009-01-18 TO CONTINUE CONVERSATION AND CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO STRUCTURE**
 - Motion “to refer resolution back to committee to break it down into two resolutions, one dealing with procedure & timeline and one dealing with content”
 - ADOPTED
- 7:55 Rev. Dr. Corcoran presents:
- **2009-02-05 TO HAVE THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT (RMD) RAISE SPECIAL APPEAL MISSIONS FUNDS AND ALLOCATE THEM BETWEEN BOTH NATIONAL MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS**
 - Motion to Amend: including an additional ‘Resolved’: “That the BOLM will be included in this appeal as an international mission.”
 - FAILED
 - **2009-02-05** ADOPTED
- 8:15 Rev. Bill Heithold presents:
- **2009-3-05 CAUTION TO SYNOD’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING THE SALE OF CERTAIN ASSETS**
 - Motion to Amend: add to the resolved after St. Louis: “and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne
 - AMENDED by consensus
 - **2009-3-05** ADOPTED as amended
- 8:20 Rev. Schlechte presents:
- **2009-04-08 TO RESPECTFULLY DECLINE OVERTURE 2009-04-2**
 - ADOPTED
- 8:25 Theological Unity Floor Committee, Rev. Shearier
- **2009-01-11A TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO MEMORIALIZE THE 2010 SYNODICAL CONVENTION TO CONTINUE DISTRICT LICENSED DEACON PROGRAMS AND TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS OF SYNOD TO SUPPORT THE CALLING AND ORDAINING OF ELIGIBLE DEACONS TO THE PASTORAL OFFICE**
 - Motion to Amend: add to the last resolved “, rostering them as ordained ministers, and amending the Bylaws accordingly”

- Motion to call the question on the Amendment
 - ADOPTED
 - Amendment is ADOPTED
 - **2009-01-11A** was not voted on due to “orders of the day”
- 8:45 Orders of the Day
- 8:45 Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) Presentation, Mr. Merle Freitag
- 9:05 Concordia Seminary St. Louis Greetings, Rev. Don Stults
- 9:08 Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Greetings, Prof. John Pless
- 9:12 Campus Ministries Report, Rev. Scott Holder
- 9:15 Lutheran Schools, Eyes to See the Mission Video, Mr. Paul Albers
- 9:20 Concordia University Seward, Greetings, President, Dr. Bryan Friedrich
- 9:25 Closing Devotion, Rev. Dr. Henry Corcoran
- 10:00 Dismissal

Friday, June 20, 2009

- 8:00 Opening with Prayer, President Golter
 - Devotion, Dr. Wilhelm Weber
 - St. John 20: As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.
 - St. John 21: When the disciples work on their own, they catch nothing. When they work at the command/promise of Jesus (v. 6) they can hardly pull in the net! So it is with the Church.
 - Feeding the lambs and fishing for men are both necessary—what Jesus has called the Church to do.
 - Presentation of gift to Dr. Weber in thankfulness for his teaching at the convention, President Golter.
- 8:30 Concordia Publishing House Presentation, Dr. Bruce Kintz, President
 - Presentation of \$500 certificate for a ‘starter library’ to Mt. Calvary, Denver, Rev. Hans Fiene, a mission church of the RMD.
- 8:40 Dr. David Tswaedi, Bishop of the Lutheran Church of Southern Africa
 - Essay: “The Future Of The Lutheran Mission On The African Continent”
 - Presentation of gift to Bishop Tswaedi in thankfulness for teaching Missiology during the Convention.
- 9:25 Credentials Report, Rev. Guswelle
 - 216 total delegates: 97 are Pastoral delegates and 119 are Lay delegates.
- 9:30 Theological Unity Floor Committee Chair, Rev. Shearier
 - **2009-01-19 FOR RIGHTLY UNDERSTANDING THE “DOCTRINAL POSITION OF THE SYNOD”**
 - Motion to strike the parenthetical statement from the fourth whereas: “(e.g.: “collective will”),
 - Amendment DEFEATED
 - Amendment: to add to the final resolved: “,and to memorialize Synod to this effect”
 - Amendment ADOPTED
 - **2009-01-19** ADOPTED as amended
 - **2009-01-18A TO CONTINUE CONVERSATION AND CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO STRUCTURE**
 - Motion to amend: In the fourth resolved, strike: “~~proposed restructuring priorities~~” and replace with “specific wording for all proposed revisions to the Synod’s Constitution or Bylaws, including the complete text of any enabling convention resolutions to implement”

such revisions, as well as the BRTFSSG's rationale for such revisions, along with ..."

Accepted as a friendly amendment.

9:45 Orders of the Day (discussion of amendment to **2009-01-18A** will continue at 11:15).

9:45 President Gerald Kieschnick, President of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

- Greetings and report
- video
- (10:30) Question and Answer session with President Kieschnick (a sampling of the questions and answers are as follows):
 - **Q:** Why did you implement the BRTFSSG? **A:** Current structure was originally developed for a handful of congregations and we are now over 6,000. Increase accountability, reduce duplication and increase efficiency. Furthermore, un-equal and uneven representation is another issue that needs to be addressed. Synod website (lcms.org/president) has a more thorough answer to this question than can be given here.
 - **Q.** Concerning sale of KFUEO radio station. Why has the national outcry not been addressed? What will happen to the proceeds of the sale? **A.** Board of Directors appointed a review of this and all assets of Synod. This evaluation is continuing and under review. The goal is to answer the question: "What is the best use of Synod's assets to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ." The review differentiates between the sale/use of the FM and the AM sides of the station.
 - President Kieschnick concluded his talk
 - with an admonition to the church to abide by the eighth commandment.
 - His expression of expectation for a bright future for the LCMS because of the church's rich resources of gifted lay people and sound theology.

11:08 Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute, Greeting, Rev. Richard Schlak, Executive Director

- LCMS World Mission is no longer able provide funding (1/3 of total for LHMI including Pr. Schlak's salary)
 - Please respond positively to funding appeals

11:25 Theological Unity Floor Committee, Rev. Shearier

- (Continued from 9:45 when orders of the day were called) **2009-01-18A TO CONTINUE CONVERSATION AND CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO STRUCTURE**
 - Motion to amend: In the fourth resolved, strike: "~~proposed restructuring priorities~~" and replace with "specific wording for all proposed revisions to the Synod's Constitution or Bylaws, including the complete text of any enabling convention resolutions to implement such revisions, as well as the BRTFSSG's rationale for such revisions, along with ..."
Accepted as a friendly amendment.
 - Motion to call the question
 - Motion ADOPTED
 - Note: President Kieschnick reports that the BRTSFSSG will be disbanded before the 2010 Synodical conference.
 - **2009-01-18A** is ADOPTED as amended
- **2009-01-11A TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO MEMORIALIZE THE 2010 SYNODICAL CONVENTION TO CONTINUE DISTRICT LICENSED DEACON PROGRAMS AND TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS OF SYNOD TO SUPPORT THE CALLING AND ORDAINING OF ELIGIBLE DEACONS TO THE PASTORAL OFFICE**
 - Motion to call the question
 - Motion Adopted
 - **2009-01-11A** ADOPTED

11:40 Rev. Dr. Corcoran, presents:

- **2009-02-03a** TO ENCOURAGE THE LUTHERAN HISPANIC MISSIONARY INSTITUTE IN THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT
 - ADOPTED

11:45 Rev. Bill Heithold, presents:

- **2009-03-01a** TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DISTRICT OFFICE SUPPORT STAFF FOR THE WORK THEY DO FOR THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT
 - AOPTED by acclamation

11:48 Motion to suspend orders of the day for 15 minutes to discuss a motion from the floor

- Motion Fails [the 63% affirmative votes does not meet the 2/3 requirement needed to suspend the orders of the day]

11:50 Work of convention completed. Convention closed with prayer by President Golter in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

12:00 Closing worship service with President Kieschnick preaching and installing newly elected district officers.

OVERTURES

2009-01-11A To Authorize the Board of Directors to Memorialize the 2010 Synodical Convention to Continue District Licensed Deacon Programs *and to amend the By-laws of Synod to support the calling and ordaining of eligible Deacons to the Pastoral Office*

Whereas, Projections show, that with the upcoming retirement of pastors and present seminary enrollments, the numbers of traditional seminary graduates will not meet the needs of the congregations of the Synod; and

Whereas, There is a projected need in the Rocky Mountain District for graduates from both the Synod's Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program and the District's Licensed Deacon Program; and

Whereas, The Synod is conducting a study of the situations currently served by licensed lay deacons and at its 2010 Convention will be considering the continued need for such deacons; and

Whereas, Since the Synod adopted Resolution 3-05B at its 1989 Convention, our Synod's language and practice are not in agreement as to whether a Licensed Deacon, requested by a congregation or District to serve in the Public Ministry of the Gospel, with the approval of the District President, meets the requirements of Augsburg Confession Article XIV; and

Whereas, The District's Committee on Licensed Deacons has drafted an overture to the 2010 Synodical Convention recommending among other things the continued need for the Synod's SMP Program and District Licensed Deacon Programs and is in the process of getting input from the Synod's Board for Pastoral Education, the Seminaries and others prior to refining the overture for consideration and approval by the District's Board of Directors; and

Whereas, The Committee in its Report to the 2009 District Convention shares some of the matters being considered for that overture; and

Whereas, The Committee's recommendations on these matters may change as a result of further input prior to the 2010 deadline for submitting overtures to the Synod; and

Whereas, A Licensed Deacon has not completed the Seminary study of a Regular Pastor, but has completed the required, approved course work of the District, is certified and recommended by the District President and is under the supervision of a Regular Pastor; be it

Resolved, That the Rocky Mountain District Convention authorize the District, through an overture prepared by its Committee on Licensed Deacons and approved by its Board of Directors, to recommend to the Synod's 2010 Convention the continuation of District Licensed Deacon Programs and the amendment of the Synod's Bylaws to clarify the terminology, call and ordination of eligible Licensed Deacons into the

pastoral office in accordance with Augsburg Confession Article XIV, rostering them as ordained ministers, and amending the bylaws accordingly.

2009-01-18A To Continue Conversation and Consideration of Changes to Structure

Overtures: 2009-01-01, 2009-01-02, 2009-01-03; 2009-01-05, 2009-01-06, 2009-01-07, 2009-01-08, 2009-01-10

WHEREAS: The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synodical Structure and Governance (BRTFSSG) was appointed by President Kieschnick in March, 2005; and

WHEREAS: President Kieschnick, in a letter dated June 10, 2005 to the Blue Ribbon Task Force members gave the charge to “make recommendations to the Synod”; and

WHEREAS: The 2007 Synod Convention charged President Kieschnick and the Council of Presidents to call a special convention after consulting with a variety of leaders in the church (2007 Resolution 8-07S) for the purpose of considering recommendations proposed by the BRTFSSG; and

WHEREAS: The President of Synod and Council of Presidents did not approve calling a special convention of the Synod, but instead did approve adding two days to the beginning of the 2010 convention; and

WHEREAS: The BRTFSSG to date has provided the members of Synod with:

- a) Report in the 2007 Convention Workbook which included a provisional draft with “suggested revisions not recommended for adoption at this time” for changes to the Constitution Preamble, Article I (Name), Article II (Confession of Faith), and Article III (Objectives); and
- b) Two white papers: “Congregations Walking Together” and “Proposals and Possibilities for Consideration and Discussion;” and
- c) The study document “Congregation – Synod – Church -- Basic Theological Principles Underlying LCMS Structure and Governance;” and

WHEREAS: The Rocky Mountain District President’s Theological Task Force on Church Polity (PTTFCP) has presented the delegates to the RMD Convention with a comprehensive and helpful report; and

WHEREAS: Reasonable time, place, and opportunity has not been given and established for beneficial dialog, discussion, and mutual consideration of the profound proposed changes to our Synod’s practice and structure, as found in the recently released tentative proposals of the BRTFSSG; be it therefore

RESOLVED: That the Rocky Mountain District in convention commend the BRTFSSG for its report and work thus far; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Rocky Mountain District President's Theological Task Force on Church Polity be commended for its helpful report on the work of the BRTFSSG; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we encourage all members of the Rocky Mountain District to avail themselves of the opportunities to give feedback and share concerns to the BRTFSSG using all available means; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the BRTFSSG present a final report to the members of the Synod, which would also include specific wording for all proposed revisions to the Synod's constitution or bylaws, including the complete text of any enabling convention resolutions to implement such revisions, as well as the BRTFSSG's rationale for such revisions, along with timetable, and costs, by October 31, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED: That, upon receipt of the full report, members of the Rocky Mountain District study, discuss, and evaluate the proposals and provide feedback to the District President and the delegates to the Synodical Convention in July 2010 as soon as practically possible; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Rocky Mountain District delegates to the July 2010 convention be instructed as to the content and the implications for our life together should the recommendations of the BRTFSSG be adopted; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a special conference of the BRTFSSG be held a minimum of 120 days prior to the July 2010 Synodical Convention to review, and analyze any recommendations, and make report for consideration at the convention and provide the delegates with a revised final proposal no later than 60 days prior to the convention, and be it finally

RESOLVED: That if this time line is not achieved that the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain District and its President formally encourage the 2010 Synodical Convention to table these recommendations until the next properly convened Synodical Convention.

2009-01-19 FOR RIGHTLY UNDERSTANDING THE “DOCTRINAL POSITION OF SYNOD.”

Overtures: 2009-01-07, 2009-01-09

- Whereas, The phrase “bind themselves to the doctrinal position of Synod” as used in the BRTFFSG’s slide presentation, “Walking Together,” concerns some as introducing coercive language; and
- Whereas, While the 2007 Synodical Handbook does speak of a “confessional position of the Synod” and “member of Synod” in By-law 1.6.1 and outlines in subsequent sections how we treat doctrinal statements adopted by conventions – and a process of dissent, we speak of the “doctrinal position of Synod” because it is the doctrine of our Lord; and
- Whereas, While we are bound by the Word of God (the Holy Scriptures) and we willingly and publicly subscribe the Confessions because they are a true exposition of the Word of God, and we willingly walk together as a Synod, confessing our shared faith and agreeing to receive the doctrinal statements adopted by conventions as advice for mission and ministry, we are not bound by the words of men, the rules or resolutions of an organization, or the coercion of any movement; and
- Whereas, Synod does not exist to create, invent, or originate doctrine, or introduce ideas, ideology, or terminology contrary to the doctrine of our Lord (e.g.: “collective will”), but rather to conserve and promote the unity of faith, to strengthen congregations and their members, to recruit and train pastors and teachers, etc., to aid congregations in education (including colleges and seminaries) and in defending their confessional unity in the true faith, to encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, to provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, teachers, and other church workers, to provide protection for congregations and servants of the church in their official duties and in the protection of their rights, and to aid in providing for the welfare of the servants of the church (Article III of the Constitution); and
- Whereas, For the benefit of the church and for the blessing of the Lord’s people, we should strive to speak clearly and plainly of the Doctrine of our Lord Jesus as it is bestowed upon the Church in Holy Scripture and is expounded in the Confessions; therefore be it
- Resolved, That we retain the time-tested words in our Constitution: “the Synod is not an ecclesiastical government exercising legislative or coercive powers, . . . [but] is but an advisory body. Accordingly, no resolution of the 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 a congregation is concerned;” and be it finally
- Resolved, That the “member of Synod,” with regard to doctrine, is to be understood as being bound by the Word of God, as subscribing to the Lutheran Confessions, and as rejoicing in the full doctrinal fellowship of the Confessions, but as being bound by no resolutions of conventions, or inventions of men contrary to the Word of God, and memorialize Synod to this effect.

2009-02-01A "MISSION: SOUTHERN AFRICA" PROJECT BE CONTINUED

- Whereas, Our Lord has commanded us in His Word to go *and make disciples of all nations* (Mat 28:19) and to *contribute to the needs of the saints* (Rom 12:13); and
- Whereas, The Rocky Mountain District has responded in Christian love and specifically supported the Lutheran Seminary in Tshwane (LTS) by means of the project known as "MISSION: Southern Africa", Cattle dipping project, Missionary support to the Bush people in Botswana with many positive results; and
- Whereas, We rejoice that God has used the Rocky Mountain District to support the further proclamation of the Gospel through "Mission: Southern Africa;" and
- Whereas, While we are aware of many other opportunities for the use of our mission gifts, such as "Fan into Flame" and the like, there remains much good work to be done in the Mission: Southern Africa Project,
- Resolved, That the Rocky Mountain District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod continue to fund as its special mission project for the next triennium "Mission: Southern Africa" by completing and or exceeding the goal of \$500,000 established by the previous convention and be it
- Resolved, That the Rocky Mountain District continue the working partnership with Mission: Southern Africa by means of prayer, financial support, funding of the Lutheran seminary in Tshwane and human care projects and be it finally
- Resolved, That the Rocky Mountain District Convention give authority to the Rocky Mountain District President to appoint a non standing committee to look into further funding" Mission: Southern Africa".

2009-02-02a TO PRAISE GOD FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT MISSION: SOUTHERN AFRICA

Whereas, In the 47th Convention (2006) of the Rocky Mountain District the Congregations of the Rocky Mountain District in prayerful consideration decided to take the opportunity for growth in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and expanding their ministry by and through the efforts of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa; and

Whereas, This Mission opportunity has been a blessing for all who have been and continue to support MISSION SOUTHERN AFRICA, and

Whereas, We are blessed to have with us in our 48th Convention of the Rocky Mountain District The Reverend Bishop Tswadi and The Reverend Dr. Wilhelm Weber, Rector of the Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa; and

Whereas, We are thankful for this opportunity to support MISSION SOUTHERN AFRICA; be it

Resolved, That we together stand and sing the Doxology in praise and thanks to our Triune God for MISSION SOUTHERN AFRICA, for all who are part of this far reaching mission, for the partnership and fellowship that He has created between our congregations and the congregations of the Lutheran Church of Southern Africa, and, in particular, for the continued proclamation of the Gospel among these congregations.

Submitted by:
The Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors

2009-02-03a TO ENCOURAGE THE LUTHERAN HISPANIC MISSIONARY INSTITUTE IN THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Whereas, Our Lord Jesus bids us to make disciples of all nations.

Whereas, The Rocky Mountain District in Convention sought to enable Mission and Ministry to the Hispanics in our District; and

Whereas, The District in Convention saw a need for an educational center to train persons for outreach to Hispanics; and

Whereas, God has blessed us and our District in being able to start and enroll students at the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute in El Paso, Texas, be it

Resolved, That every congregation of the Rocky Mountain District be encouraged to continue to support the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute through prayer, publications, praise, thanksgiving and financial support; and be it finally

Resolved, That we together stand and sing the Doxology in praise and thanks to our Triune God for the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute in training workers to multiply healthy Hispanic Ministries.

Submitted by:

The Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors

2009-02-05 TO HAVE THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT (RMD) RAISE SPECIAL APPEAL MISSION FUNDS AND ALLOCATE THEM BETWEEN BOTH NATIONAL MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

- Whereas, The RMD, in keeping with its commitment to the Great Commission (Matt 28.19) and its focus on the need to prepare for the harvest (John 4.35), places major emphasis on its evangelism and Gospel outreach ministries; especially the several ethnic ministries and the Southern African Project; and
- Whereas, The RMD, through its “Special Appeal” efforts, will continue to encourage congregations to gather and provide funds to support missions both nationally and internationally; and
- Whereas, The LHMI is a major national Hispanic ministry outreach initiative launched by the RMD at its 2003 convention; established by the RMD BOD in 2007 and, by God’s grace, has since achieved significant milestones in its development; and
- Whereas, The LHMI, in the short time since it was established in January, 2008, has made considerable progress in training men and women to plant new Hispanic missions in the RMD and beyond, anticipating this year to graduate two certified trainees and to matriculate at least 20 other regular students; and
- Whereas, Under the leadership of Rev. Schlak, the LHMI has established itself as a principal component of the tri-district (PSW, RMD, and Texas Dist.) FRONTERA ministry program which reaches out to Hispanics in the U.S. - Mexico border region; and
- Whereas, Under the leadership of Rev. Schlak, the LHMI has become a “feeder program” for the Center For Hispanic Studies, Concordia Seminary – St. Louis as a preparatory training center for future pastors and deaconesses in Hispanic ministry; and
- Whereas, Due to the economic situation, LCMS World Mission is no longer able to allocate undesignated funds to support the LHMI, and is requiring all missionaries, including the LHMI Director, to raise project support (in this case, \$87,000); and
- Whereas, While we are aware of many other opportunities for the use of our mission gifts, such as “Fan into Flame”, BOLM (Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission), Navajo Mission and the Like, there remains much good work to be done; therefore be it:
- Resolved, That the Rocky Mountain District, in convention, approve raising funds by special appeal (above and beyond the budget) to support missions in two categories: International Missions and National Missions; and be it further
- Resolved, That the RMD Board of Directors apportion the special mission funds into the two categories above; and be it further
- Resolved, That for three years beginning in 2010, at least \$40,000 per year of funds designated for national missions be directed to support the ministry of the LHMI as an RMD “National Mission;” and be it further
- Resolved, That the RMD strongly encourage congregations to support the Special Appeals with prayer and financial assistance as they are guided by our Lord’s Words to “open your eyes and look at the fields. They are ripe for the harvest.” (John 4.35).

2009-03-01A TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DISTRICT OFFICE SUPPORT STAFF FOR THE WORK THEY DO FOR THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Whereas, We have been blessed with faithful workers in the District Office; and

Whereas, The members of the support staff: Karen Burns, Margery Richter, Laura Raben, and Monique Hjalmsquist, have time and time again demonstrated work beyond their job description; be it

Resolved, That we recognized their fine work in convention; and be it finally

Resolved, That we together stand and sing the Doxology in praise and thanks to our Triune God for the support staff of the District Office of the Rocky Mountain District.

Submitted by:

The Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors

2009-03-02a TO CONSIDER A FUND TO ASSIST CONGREGATIONS, ET AL, WITH HEALTH CARE

Whereas, Congregations seek to provide adequate healthcare insurance to our pastors, educators, and other church employees, and

Whereas, The cost of healthcare continues to rise nationwide and control of these costs is beyond the purview of the church, and

Whereas, These costs create an ever increasing burden on the finances of our congregations, and

Whereas, This burden, in many instances, is not sustainable; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain District study the feasibility, the establishment of a fund, perhaps endowment based, to assist congregations for the express purpose of supplementing the Concordia Health Plan Services/Concordia Plan Health premiums and report back at the 2012 convention.

2009-3-04

MOTION TO MEMORIALIZE THE SYNOD TO DIRECT CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE TO PUT THE 1986 TRANSLATION OF LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM FOR NON PROFIT USE ONLY

- Whereas, The text of Luther's Small Catechism (the six chief parts) is the primary teaching tool of the Lutheran Church; and
- Whereas, The text is intended to be used in the home and church, and spread abroad as freely as possible; and
- Whereas, The Scriptures themselves encourage us to write the text of the catechism on our doors and walls (Deuteronomy 6:6ff, see Luther's Preface to the Large Catechism, 14i); and
- Whereas, Wherever the catechism is read, studied, printed, sung, written, posted, repeated and learned, the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of faith and love; and
- Whereas, The congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in love for one another and the unity of the Spirit have a common translation of the Small Catechism (1986); and
- Whereas, The copyright limitations placed on the 1986 translation of Luther's Small Catechism limit its distribution (for example, on the Internet, church websites, catechism study books and worksheets, audio recordings, posters and artwork, etc.); therefore be it
- Resolved, That the congregations of the Rocky Mountain District memorialize the synod in convention to direct the Board of Directors of Concordia Publishing House to release the six chief parts of the 1986 translation of Luther's Small Catechism for non profit use only.

Submitted by:
Hope Lutheran Church
Aurora, CO

2009-3-05 Caution to Synod's Board of Directors Regarding the Sale of Certain Assets

Whereas Concerns have arisen about the desire to sell certain valuable assets of Synod, be it

RESOLVED that the Rocky Mountain District affirm the integral value of KFUO Radio station and the campuses of Concordia Seminary St. Louis, and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and caution the Board of Directors of Synod that the liquidation of such assets could be detrimental to the work of the LCMS.

2009-4-03 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE RMD BYLAWS

Whereas, The District and its Board of Directors are operating under the Critical Target; and

Whereas, The operations of the Bylaws are to meet the functions of the District's work; therefore
be it

Resolved; That the proposed changes to the RMD Bylaws be approved and take effect upon
approval.

Submitted by:
The Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors

(see full text of Bylaws beginning on "Overtures p. 22" of Convention Workbook)

2009-4-04 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE RMD HANDBOOK OF OPERATIONS

Whereas, The District Handbook operates according to the District Bylaws, be it

Resolved, That the proposed changes to the RMD Handbook of Operations be approved and take effect upon convention approval.

Submitted by
The Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors

(see full text of “Handbook of Operations” beginning on “Overtures p. 42” of Convention Workbook)

Note: Article II, 8.01, paragraph C on page 48 of this overture, is amended as follows:

“The President shall be a full-time executive. He shall be the official spokesman for the District.” ~~and shall not be in charge of a congregation, hold a chair at any educational institution or be called as an assistant pastor.~~ [amendment to strike after the word “District” is **ADOPTED**]

2009-4-05 TO RECOMMEND THE ADOPTION OF SPECIAL STANDING RULES FOR THE 2009 CONVENTION

Whereas, The past conventions of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have benefited by the adoption of a number of special standing rules; and

Whereas, These special standing rules could also be helpful for conventions of The Rocky Mountain District; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 2009 Convention of The Rocky Mountain District adopt the following standing rules:

PROPOSED SPECIAL STANDING RULES

1. The chair shall see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible.
2. Resolutions of each floor committee shall be prioritized and shall normally be presented in that prioritized sequence.
3. Each member of the convention, when recognized by the chair, shall state his/her name and his/her congregation.
4. The 2-minute rule shall apply for all who speak from the floor and for the committee during debate. As long as there are pro and con speakers they shall alternate.
5. While any voting delegate may call the questions at any time, except when speaking to the motion under consideration, after every 30 minutes of debate on any one motion there shall be an automatic call of the question by the chair.
6. Instead of only a voice vote on motions before the convention, the chair shall ordinarily also call for the raising of the right hand.
7. If a substitute motion is offered and seconded, the presenter shall be offered two minutes to provide the rationale for presenting it. The convention shall then first decide by majority vote without debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is in the affirmative and the substitute motion is subsequently adopted, the original motion fails; if the substitute motion does not receive favorable action either to consider or to adopt, the original motion is again before the house. (This is the so-called "Behnken rule" for dealing with substitute motions.)
8. Resolutions prepared by the floor committees which are not acted upon by the convention before adjournment die. The subject matter may be reintroduced at the next convention by means of an overture.
9. The preface, preamble, and whereas sections shall be considered an integral part of the resolution or overture, and as such subject to the same serious consideration and adoption in all its parts as the main motion itself.
10. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised (latest edition).
11. Amending overtures: Amendments exceeding 3-5 words in length must be written out and provided to the secretary immediately after being moved and seconded.

(Found on Page 61 of the Convention Workbook, "Overtures" section)

2009-4-06 TO ADD A STANDING RULE

Whereas, The Bylaws do not specify the order of election for the Nominating Committee of the categories of candidates; and

Whereas, We desire to maintain the efficiency of the electronic voting process; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Elections Committee present the candidates as follows:

1. Commissioned Ministers for the election of one at-large member;
2. Laypersons for the election of two members with each being from different geographic areas; and
3. Pastors for the election of two members with each being from the two geographic areas not represented by the laypersons elected previously.

2009-4-07 TO DIRECT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO PREPARE MODIFICATION TO THE ELECTION BYLAWS FOR THE NEXT CONVENTION

Whereas, The electronic election process has been demonstrated to be fair, open and expedient; and

Whereas, Minor modifications to the Bylaws are advised to expedite the electronic process; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Directors be directed to have these modifications prepared for presentation at the next convention maintaining the existing structure of the Board, the same representation by geographic area and the same balance of clergy and lay representation; and be it further

Resolved, That these proposed changes be the first item of business on the Agenda of the next District Convention to allow the election process to proceed accordingly.

2009-04-08 TO RESPECTFULLY DECLINE OVERTURE 2009-04-02

Whereas, Overtures 2009-04-03 and 2009-04-04 have been adopted by the Rocky Mountain District Convention; and

Whereas, Overture 2009-04-04 provides for receiving input from congregations in a variety of ways (Handbook of Operations Article 1: 7.01 A 9) before adopting the annual fiscal year District mission and ministry program; and

Whereas, Overture 2009-04-02 prescribes only one method of receiving input from congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, That Overture 2009-04-02 be respectfully declined.