

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD**

**SECTION IV**

**FLOOR COMMITTEES**

Floor Committee 1 — Know the Truth

Floor Committee 2 — Live the Faith

Floor Committee 3 — Elections

# OVERTURES

1 **2022-01-01 To Reaffirm that the Sacraments cannot be Administered Remotely**

2

3 Whereas, "Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and  
4 when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:  
5 'Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of  
6 Me.' In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given  
7 thanks, He gave it to them, saying: 'Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new  
8 testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do,  
9 as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.'" Matthew 26:26-28; Mark  
10 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25; and

11

12 Whereas, "[Christ] spoke these words deliberately and carefully at his Last Supper, as he  
13 began his bitter suffering and death for our sins, in that last, sad hour. Thereby  
14 he instituted this most holy sacrament, which is to be used until the end of the  
15 world with great reverence and in all obedience, in which it is to be a continual  
16 memorial of his bitter suffering and death and of all his benefits, a seal of the  
17 New Testament, a comfort for all troubled hearts, and a continual bond and  
18 union of Christ's people with Christ their head and among themselves, and  
19 ***because of all these things, we are bound to interpret and construe***  
20 ***these words of the eternal, reliable, and almighty Son of God, our Lord,***  
21 ***creator, and redeemer Jesus Christ, not as embellished, figurative,***  
22 ***exotic expressions, as would appear in line with our reason, but instead***  
23 ***we should accept the words as they stand, in their proper, clear sense,***  
24 ***with simple faith and appropriate obedience and not permit ourselves to***  
25 ***be drawn away from this position by any objection or human***  
26 ***counterargument spun out of human reason, no matter how attractive it***  
27 ***may appear to our reason"*** SD VII, 44-45 (KW 600-601) (italics added); and

28

29 Whereas, "In order to preserve this true Christian teaching on the Holy Supper and to  
30 avoid and eliminate many kinds of idolatrous abuses and perversions of this  
31 testament, this useful rule and guide is taken from the Words of Institution:  
32 nothing has the character of a sacrament apart from the use [usus] instituted by  
33 Christ or the divinely instituted action [ction]. (***That is, when Christ's***  
34 ***institution is not observed as he established it, there is no sacrament.***)  
35 This rule dare not be rejected in any way, but it can and should be followed and  
36 preserved in the church of God with great benefit." SD VII, 85 (KW 607-608)  
37 (italics added); and

38

39 Whereas, the practice of consecrating the sacrament from a remote location using a  
40 person's voice transmitted into the homes of congregants is contrary to the  
41 manner in which our Lord instituted and consecrated the Sacrament, as a  
42 common meal to be received from his hand in the immediate presence of his  
43 gathered disciples; therefore be it

44

45 Resolved, that any attempts at remotely consecrating the Sacrament should be  
46 immediately discontinued among all LC-MS congregations where this novel  
47 practice had been introduced; and be it further

48

49 Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District in convention memorialize the Synod to  
50 reaffirm the salutary and proper use and action of the Sacrament in keeping  
51 with Christ's institution, as a meal to be consecrated and distributed to the  
52 gathered, examined, and absolved Christians from the pastor's hand; and be it  
53 finally

54

55 Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District in convention rise and sing Lord, Keep Us  
56 Steadfast in Your Word (LSB 655).

57

58

59 Submitted by:  
60 Pecos Circuit

# OVERTURES

## 1 2022-1-02 To Reject the Innovative and Schismatic Practice of Online Communion

2  
3 Whereas, The Evangelist St. Mark writes, "And as they were eating, he took bread, and  
4 after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."  
5 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all  
6 drank of it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured  
7 out for many" (Mark 14:22-24, ESV). Thus, Jesus directly gave His body and blood  
8 to be eaten and drunk by the disciples who had gathered in-person with Him,  
9 which established the proper practice of participating in His Supper; and

10  
11 Whereas, Martin Luther wrote a letter in 1523 to the Hussites who had found themselves in  
12 an awkward situation of publicly gathering with a public minister through deception  
13 in order to participate in the Lord's Supper. They were deceiving the pope with a  
14 false loyalty to obtain ordained pastors to provide Holy Communion. Luther advised  
15 them to abstain from this deception and even the reception of the Eucharist. Luther  
16 writes,

17  
18 ...I would confidently advise that you have no ministers at all. For it would be safer  
19 and more wholesome for the father of the household to read the gospel and, since  
20 the universal custom and use allows it to the laity, to baptize those who are born in  
21 his home, and so to govern himself and his according to the doctrine of Christ,  
22 even if throughout life they did not dare or could not receive the Eucharist. For the  
23 Eucharist is not so necessary that salvation depends on it. The gospel and baptism  
24 are sufficient, since faith alone justifies and love alone lives rightly. Surely if in this  
25 way two, three, or ten homes, or a whole city, or several cities agreed thus among  
26 themselves to live in faith and love by the use of the gospel in the home, and even  
27 if no ordained man, shorn or anointed, ever came to them or in any other way was  
28 placed over them as minister to administer the Eucharist and other sacraments,  
29 Christ without a doubt would be in their midst and would own them as his church...  
30 (LW40:9-10); and

31  
32 Whereas, the head of the household is responsible for the Biblical education of his home, he  
33 is not placed in the public office for the administering of the public sacrament of  
34 Holy Communion. The sacrament of Baptism and the perpetual use of the Gospel in  
35 speaking and writing is sufficient for salvation. Furthermore, Luther compares the  
36 strange times of the Reformation to the days of the Babylonian Exile. Luther writes,

37  
38 ...The father in the home, on the other hand, can provide his own with the  
39 necessities through the Word and in pious humility do without the nonessentials as  
40 long as he is in captivity. In this regard we follow the custom and law of the Jewish  
41 captives who were not able to be in Jerusalem or to make offering there. Upheld in  
42 their faith alone by the Word of God they passed their lives among enemies while  
43 yearning for Jerusalem. So in this ease the head of the household suffering under  
44 the tyranny of the pope would act most appropriately and safely if while longing for  
45 the Eucharist, which he neither would dare nor could receive, in the meantime  
46 zealously and faithfully propagated faith in his home through the Word of God until  
47 God on high in his mercy either brought the captivity to an end or sent a true min-  
48 ister of the Word... (LW40:9-10); and

49  
50 Whereas, Luther wrote specifically on the topic "Concerning House Communion" in a letter  
51 addressed to Wolfgang Brauer in 1536., Luther states,

52  
53 Kindly tell your dear sir and friend that he is not in duty bound to go ahead in this  
54 matter and give Holy Communion to himself and his household. Nor is this  
55 necessary since he is neither called nor commanded to do this. And if the  
56 tyrannical ministers will not administer it to him and his family, though they should  
57 do it, yet he can be saved by his faith through the Word. It would also give great  
58 offence to administer the Sacrament here and there in the homes, and in the end  
59 no good would come of it, for there will be factions and sects, as now the people  
60 are strange and the devil is raging... ..But if a father wishes to teach the Word of  
61 God to his family, that is right and should be done, for it is God's command that we  
62 should teach and bring up our children and household; that is commanded to  
63 everyone. But the Sacrament [of the Altar] is a public confession and should be  
64 administered by public ministers... (As quoted by C. F. W. Walther in *Church and*  
65 *Ministry*, CPH, 1987, p. 173 from Luther's letter written to Wolfgang Brauer, 1536,  
66 St. Louis edition, 10:2225); and

# OVERTURES

67 Whereas, C. F. W. Walther in his *Pastoral Theology*, addresses the issue of a layman  
68 administering the Lord's Supper apart from the publicly gathered congregation and  
69 a public minister by looking to the theologians of the church rather than setting up  
70 innovative ideas. He states,

71  
72 The great majority of our theologians, Luther in the forefront, believe that the holy  
73 Supper should never be administered privately by one who is not in the public  
74 preaching office, by a layman. That is partly because no such necessity can occur  
75 with the holy Supper, as with Baptism and Absolution, that would justify a  
76 departure from God's ordinance (1 Cor. 4:1; Rom. 10:15, Heb. 5:4); partly  
77 because the holy Supper "is a public confession and so should have a public  
78 minister"; partly because schisms can easily be brought about by such private  
79 Communion." (C. F. W. Walther, *Walther's Pastorale that is American Lutheran*  
80 *Pastoral Theology*, trans. John M. Drickamer (New Haven, Missouri: Lutheran  
81 News, Inc., 1995), 134.); and  
82

83 Whereas, some pastors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have decided to introduce  
84 the innovative practice of online Communion during the COVID-19 pandemic in  
85 which participants remotely watch the consecration of the elements over the  
86 internet, and partake of bread and wine separate from the publicly gathered  
87 congregation and a public minister; and  
88

89 Whereas, on March 20, 2020, the CTCR unanimously endorsed "Communion and Covid-19"  
90 (CC19), an opinion on certain Holy Communion practices during the coronavirus  
91 pandemic which recommended against online, streaming services of Communion  
92 in which households consecrate with the pastor and then commune together alone;  
93 therefore be it  
94

95 *Resolved*, that the Rocky Mountain District maintain the unity of practice regarding the  
96 administration and distribution of the Lord's Supper in the publicly gathered  
97 congregation with a public minister as taught by Martin Luther and C. F. W. Walther;  
98 and be it further  
99

100 *Resolved*, that the Rocky Mountain District reject the innovative practice of online  
101 communion in which the Lord's Supper is administered and distributed apart from  
102 the publicly gathered congregation and a public minister, and that any  
103 congregation should cease and desist with this unscriptural practice; and be it further  
105

106 *Resolved*, that our circuit visitors of the Sandia circuits, in their regular visits to the pastors  
107 and congregations, and the district president, in his visits to the circuits, admonish  
108 and encourage pastors and congregations in the salutary practice of our Lord's  
109 Supper for the benefit of our members and for the unity of doctrine and practice  
110 of all our congregations; and be it finally  
111

112 *Resolved*, that the Rocky Mountain District in convention memorialize the Synod in  
113 convention to reject the innovative and schismatic practice of online communion.  
114  
115

116 Submitted by:  
117 Sandia North and Sandia South Circuits  
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# OVERTURES

## 1 **2022-1-03 To Affirm and Bind Ourselves to the Biblical Doctrine of the Young Age of** 2 **the Earth**

3  
4 Whereas, we are tempted to submit ourselves and the Sacred Scriptures to the human and  
5 fallen authorities of secular science and reason; and

6  
7 Whereas, theories of evolution, which exclude the possibility of divine creation from nothing  
8 and teach billions of years of death contrary to Scripture's history of redemption,  
9 require immense spans of time to account for the biological state of our world;  
10 and

11  
12 Whereas, contemporary cosmological and geological arguments for the immense age of the  
13 universe, which also exclude the possibility of divine creation and intervention,  
14 have been widely accepted in universities, schools, and in popular society as the  
15 truth; and

16  
17 Whereas, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for  
18 correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be  
19 complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17); and

20  
21 Whereas, "We confess our adherence to the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and  
22 New Testaments, as to the pure, clear fountain of Israel, which alone is the one  
23 true guiding principle, according to which all teachers and teaching are to be  
24 judged and evaluated" (Book of Concord, Solid Declaration, Binding Summary,  
25 3); and

26  
27 Whereas, the writings of Moses, including the book of Genesis, are both theologically and  
28 historically authoritative for Christ and his apostles, (Matt. 19:4; 22:31; Luke  
29 16:31; 24:44; John 5:46-47; Acts 10:43; etc.); and

30  
31 Whereas, our Synod's publicly stated position on the age of the earth is set forth in A Brief  
32 Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod, Article 5 (adopted  
33 1932):

34  
35 We teach that God has created heaven and earth, and that in the manner and in  
36 the space of time recorded in the Holy Scriptures, especially Gen. 1 and 2,  
37 namely, by His almighty creative word, and in six days. We reject every doctrine  
38 which denies or limits the work of creation as taught in Scripture. In our days it is  
39 denied or limited by those who assert, ostensibly in deference to science, that the  
40 world came into existence through a process of evolution; that is, that it has, in  
41 immense periods of time, developed more or less of itself. Since no man was  
42 present when it pleased God to create the world, we must look for a reliable  
43 account of creation to God's own record, found in God's own book, the Bible. We  
44 accept God's own record with full confidence and confess with Luther's  
45 Catechism: "I believe that God has made me and all creatures"; and

46  
47 Whereas, the genealogical evidence provided by Genesis chapters 5 and 11, which appears  
48 to date the earth's age near 6000 years, excludes the lengths of time necessary  
49 to wholly or partially accept cosmological, geological, archeological, and biological  
50 theories which posit millions and billions of years of this earth's existence; and

51  
52 Whereas, "For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is  
53 stronger than men" (1 Cor. 1:25); therefore be it

54  
55 *Resolved*, that the Rocky Mountain district of the LC-MS memorialize the Synod in  
56 convention to confess

- 57  
58 - That the inspired and inerrant Scriptures' relate the authoritative historical  
59 accounts of man's creation and redemption; and  
60  
61 - The straightforward reading of the genealogies in Genesis 5 and 11 can and  
62 should be used to limit our public teaching about the age of the earth to  
63 thousands of years instead of millions or billions of years; and be it finally  
64

# OVERTURES

65 *Resolved*, that pastors, teachers, professors, and synodical officials be memorialized to  
66 speak openly and without shame about our church's unanimous confession  
67 of the Scripture's authority against the deemed to be erroneous doctrines  
68 and secular authorities which assert a history contrary to God's Word and  
69 develop resources for the education of the laity on this issue.  
70

71 Submitted by:

72 \*Rocky Flats Circuit Forum

\*Revised

# OVERTURES

## 1 **2022-1-04 To Affirm and Bind Ourselves to the Biblical Doctrine of the Young Age** 2 **of the Earth**

3  
4 Whereas, we are tempted to submit ourselves and the Sacred Scriptures to the human and  
5 fallen authorities of secular science and reason; and  
6

7 Whereas, Darwinian theories of evolution, which exclude the possibility of divine creation  
8 from nothing and teach billions of years of death contrary to Scripture's history of  
9 redemption, require immense spans of time to account for the biological state of  
10 our world; and  
11

12 Whereas, contemporary cosmological and geological arguments for the immense age of the  
13 universe, which also exclude the possibility of divine creation and intervention,  
14 have been widely accepted in universities, schools, and in popular society as the  
15 truth; and  
16

17 Whereas, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for  
18 correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be  
19 complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17); and  
20

21 Whereas, "We confess our adherence to the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and  
22 New Testaments, as to the pure, clear fountain of Israel, which alone is the one  
23 true guiding principle, according to which all teachers and teaching are to be  
24 judged and evaluated" (Book of Concord, Solid Declaration, Binding Summary, 3);  
25 and  
26

27 Whereas, the writings of Moses, including the book of Genesis, are both theologically and  
28 historically authoritative for Christ and his apostles, (Matt. 19:4; 22:31; Luke  
29 16:31; 24:44; John 5:46-47; Acts 11:43; etc.); and  
30

31 Whereas, our Synod's publicly stated position on the age of the earth is set forth in A Brief  
32 Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod, Article 5 (adopted  
33 1932):  
34

35 We teach that God has created heaven and earth, and that in the manner and in  
36 the space of time recorded in the Holy Scriptures, especially Gen. 1 and 2,  
37 namely, by His almighty creative word, and in six days. We reject every doctrine  
38 which denies or limits the work of creation as taught in Scripture. In our days it is  
39 denied or limited by those who assert, ostensibly in deference to science, that the  
40 world came into existence through a process of evolution; that is, that it has, in  
41 immense periods of time, developed more or less of itself. Since no man was  
42 present when it pleased God to create the world, we must look for a reliable  
43 account of creation to God's own record, found in God's own book, the Bible. We  
44 accept God's own record with full confidence and confess with Luther's  
45 Catechism: "I believe that God has made me and all creatures; and  
46

47 Whereas, the genealogical evidence provided by Genesis chapters 5 and 11, which dates the  
48 earth's age near 6000 years, excludes the lengths of time necessary to wholly or  
49 partially accept cosmological, geological, archeological, and biological theories  
50 which posit millions and billions of years of this earth's existence; and  
51

52 Whereas, the genealogies record the history of the Seed promised to crush the serpent's  
53 head that would be born from their line in the course of human affairs and,  
54 therefore, must be read literally and reverently (Genesis 3:15); and  
55

56 Whereas, "For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is  
57 stronger than men" (1 Cor. 1:25); therefore be it  
58

59 *Resolved*, that the Rocky Mountain district of the LC-MS memorialize the Synod in  
60 convention to confess  
61

62 · That the inspired and inerrant Scriptures' relate the authoritative historical  
63 accounts of man's creation and redemption; and  
64

65 · The straightforward reading of the genealogies in Genesis 5 and 11 can and  
should be used to limit our public teaching about the age of the earth to less

# OVERTURES

66 than then thousand years instead of millions or billions of years; and be it finally  
67  
68 *Resolved*, that pastors, teachers, professors, and synodical officials be memorialized to  
69 speak openly and without shame about our church's unanimous confession of the  
70 Scripture's authority against the erroneous doctrines and secular authorities which  
71 assert a history contrary to God's Word and develop resources for the education of  
72 the laity on this issue.  
73  
74  
75 Submitted by:  
76 Pecos Circuit



# OVERTURES

1 **2022-2-01 TO RECOMMEND THE ADOPTION OF SPECIAL STANDING RULES**  
2 **FOR THE 2022 CONVENTION**

3  
4 Whereas, Past conventions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have benefited by the  
5 adoption of a number of special standing rules; and

6  
7 Whereas, These special standing rules could also be helpful for conventions of The Rocky  
8 Mountain District; therefore be it

9  
10 Resolved, That the 2022 Convention of the Rocky Mountain District adopt the following  
11 standing rules:

- 12 1. The chair will follow the printed agenda as closely as possible.
- 13  
14 2. Each member of the Convention, when recognized by the Chair, is asked to  
15 state his/her name. Please also state the name of his/her congregation and  
16 location or the administrative unit he/she represents.
- 17  
18 3. Ordinarily, those who speak from the floor will limit their remarks to two  
19 minutes (not applicable to the Floor Committee, but suggested).
- 20  
21 4. Any voting delegate may "call the question." This is not debatable, but requires  
22 a 2/3 vote. The question may not be called by a speaker immediately after  
23 speaking for or against the question. At the expiration of 30 minutes of debate  
24 on any question, the Chair shall automatically call the question.
- 25  
26 5. A point of information is always in order. No points of information or points of  
27 order are taken during a vote.
- 28  
29 6. When speaking to a motion, please say, I speak for (against) the motion, and  
30 then continue with your rationale.
- 31  
32 7. If lengthy discussion is perceived, the Chair will ask for a pro/con mode. This  
33 means that those in favor of the resolution would go to the pro microphone and  
34 those opposed would go to the con microphone.
- 35  
36 8. When a substitute motion is made and seconded, the Chair gives the delegate  
37 making the motion two minutes to explain his/her rationale. The Chair then  
38 asks the assembly to vote by simple majority whether it wishes to consider the  
39 substitute motion. If the assembly votes in favor of consideration, the  
40 substitute motion is then on the floor and the original motion is set aside. If the  
41 substitute motion, amended or unamended, is subsequently adopted, it  
42 replaces the original motion, which then dies. If the substitute motion is either  
43 not considered or subsequently is defeated, the original main motion, amended  
44 or unamended, is back on the floor for consideration. (Behnken Rule for dealing  
45 with substitute motions, as observed by The Synod).
- 46  
47 9. While the "whereas" clauses are considered an integral part of each overture,  
48 only the "resolved" will be read by Floor Committees when presenting an  
49 overture, unless requested by the Chair of in their judgment each whereas  
50 should be stated.
- 51  
52 10. Resolutions prepared by the Floor Committees which are not acted upon by the  
53 Convention before adjournment die.
- 54  
55 11. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary  
56 procedure shall be governed by **Roberts Rules of Order**, newly revised  
57 edition. Above all, the rules of Christian love govern the convention.
- 58  
59 12. Please remember that the purpose of parliamentary procedure is to carry out  
60 the wishes of the assembly in an orderly manner, to expedite business, and to  
61

# OVERTURES

62 Insure fairness to all, both the majority and the minority. It is not the purpose  
63 of parliamentary procedure to make the conduct of business in an assembly  
64 difficult.

65  
66 13. Please prepare to submit all motions (or substitute motions) and amendments  
67 with more than five words in writing with a copy to the District Secretary.

68  
69 14. Late overtures to the Floor Committees are considered only on the basis of  
70 urgency.

71  
72 15. Please turn off or silence cell phones.

73  
74 16. Approval of the minutes of the previous day's business will take place at the  
75 first business session following their distribution. Correction involving or  
76 implicating convention action shall be offered from the floor. Spelling,  
77 formatting and editorial corrections shall be submitted to the Secretary in  
78 writing for subsequent inclusion in the minutes.

79  
80  
81 Submitted by:  
82 The Rocky Mountain District LCMS

# OVERTURES

1 **2022-2-02 To Adopt Proposed Changes to RM District Bylaws (See Pages 18–53)**

2  
3 Whereas, The Rocky Mountain District (RMD) Bylaws have been reviewed and modified to  
4 include all changes recommended by the Commission on Constitution Matters  
5 (CCM) in 2022; and  
6

7 Whereas, The Bylaws have further been modified to conform to the 2019 Handbook of the  
8 Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod as recommended by the CCM; therefore be it  
9

10 Resolved, That the proposed changes to the RMD Bylaws be approved and take effect upon  
11 approval.  
12

13 Submitted by:  
14 The Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors  
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# OVERTURES

1     **2022-2-03 To Establish an International Mission Effort for the Next Triennium**

2  
3     Whereas, the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia, is moving toward financial self-  
4             sufficiency as it continues to educate, serve, and minister to the people of  
5             Eurasia, and  
6

7     Whereas, the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society (SLMS) is working wholeheartedly toward  
8             the goal of a perpetual presence in the great region, an area that was left void of  
9             all Lutheran presence after seventy years of communist rule, and  
10

11    Whereas, the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk has proven vital to restoring the Lutheran  
12            Church in Siberia, and  
13

14    Whereas, the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk is conducting a rigorous program of  
15            education and serving Christ by preparing future pastors to shepherd the people  
16            of Siberia, and is staffed by a first-class indigenous faculty, and  
17

18    Whereas, building an endowment capable of making the Novosibirsk Seminary financially  
19            self-sufficient has been a goal of the LCMS and the SLMS since 2018 through the  
20            "Save the Seminary" campaign, and  
21

22    Whereas, a goal of SLMS is to raise \$7,000,000 allowing fiscal stability of the Seminary for  
23            years to come, and  
24

25    Whereas, if the Seminary in Novosibirsk were to close, even temporarily, it is unlikely in  
26            today's Russian political environment that it could ever be reopened, therefore  
27            be it  
28

29    Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District adopt the Siberian Lutheran Seminary as an  
30            international mission effort for the triennium 2022-2025, concluding with the  
31            Convention of 2025, and be it further  
32

33    Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District congregations collectively set a goal of raising  
34            \$150,000 or more for the Siberian Lutheran Seminary over the triennium 2022-  
35            2025, and be it finally  
36

37    Resolved, that a District wide Siberian Mission Task Force be established to work in team  
38            with the SLMS during this triennium to provide creative avenues of support,  
39            education and prayerful personal challenge.  
40

41    Submitted by:  
42    The Rocky Mountain District Board of Directors  
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# OVERTURES

1 **2022-2-04 To Require Area Vice-Presidents to Reside and Have Congregational**  
2 **Membership in Their Areas**  
3

4 Whereas, the Lord calls the ministers of His church to be above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2);  
5 and  
6

7 Whereas, the bylaws of the Rocky Mountain District require the Vice-Presidents to be  
8 ordained ministers; and  
9

10 Whereas, the present wording of Bylaw 2.01.A.1.b: "Four (4) Vice-Presidents, one from  
11 each of the four geographical areas of the District" could be interpreted in such a  
12 way that a Vice-President could hold church membership in St. George, Utah and  
13 reside in El Paso, Texas with seemingly no conflict of interest and yet not keep the  
14 integrity of the bylaws; therefore be it  
15

16 *Resolved*, that Bylaw 2.01.A.1.b be amended to add the following wording to read: "Four  
17 (4) Vice-Presidents, one from each of the four geographical areas of the District **in**  
18 **which they both reside and have congregational membership.**"  
19

20  
21 Submitted by:  
22 Pikes Peak Circuit  
23  
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# OVERTURES

1 **2022-2-05 To Remove the District President's Denver Residency Requirement**

2  
3 Whereas, Bylaw 2.02.A currently requires the District President to "live in the Denver area";  
4 and

5  
6 Whereas, this places an unfair geographical limit upon the candidates for the Presidency of  
7 our very large District; and

8  
9 Whereas, during the Covid pandemic, the District Staff has demonstrated that working  
10 remotely can be done efficiently and affectively; and

11  
12 Whereas, other Districts like the English and SELC have been operating in a similar fashion  
13 with larger territories to cover for decades; and

14  
15 Whereas, other major cities in our District such as Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Colorado  
16 Springs, and Salt Lake City have major airports which would facilitate the District  
17 President's travel needs both throughout the District and the Synod as needed;  
18 therefore be it

19  
20 *Resolved*, that District Bylaw 2.02.A be amended as follows: "A President (an ordained min-  
21 ister) who shall be a full-time executive unless otherwise permitted in these By-  
22 laws. ~~A President serving on a full-time basis shall live in the Denver area.~~".

23  
24 Submitted by:  
25 Pikes Peak Circuit

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# OVERTURES

1 **2022-2-06 To Study the Fiscal Responsibility of the District's Involvement with**  
2 **University Lutheran Chapel**  
3

4 Whereas, the Rocky Mountain District (RMD) owns the property of University Lutheran  
5 Chapel (ULC); and  
6

7 Whereas, a substantial sum from the sale of the district office was allocated by the RMD  
8 Board of Directors to deconstruct part of the ULC property; and  
9

10 Whereas, in the last triennium the ULC property has consumed many paid and volunteer  
11 hours from the District Staff and Board of Directors upon meetings with the city of  
12 Boulder, architectural firms, ULC leadership, etc.; and  
13

14 Whereas, while not intentional, other ministries and missions throughout the RMD would  
15 not be given the same financial privilege nor time investment; therefore be it  
16

17 *Resolved*, that the Rocky Mountain District in Convention establish a task force to study the  
18 financial history between ULC and the Rocky Mountain District to present its  
19 findings to the 2024 Convention; and be it further  
20

21 *Resolved*, that this task force make a recommendation to the 2024 RMD Convention  
22 concerning the fiscal responsibility of Districts continued ownership of the ULC  
23 property; and be it finally  
24

25 *Resolved*, that the RMD in Convention give thanks to God for the ministry of ULC.  
26

27 Submitted by:  
28 Pikes Peak Circuit  
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# OVERTURES

1 **2022-2-07 Automobile Expenses and Reimbursement in the Rocky Mountain**  
2 **District of the LCMS**  
3

4 Whereas, The Rocky Mountain District of the LCMS has opted to reimburse its workers  
5 and members for miles driven at the rate of 35 cents per mile while  
6 conducting business on behalf of the Rocky Mountain District-LCMS instead of  
7 other forms of allowance; and  
8

9 Whereas, The Compensation Guidelines provided by Concordia Plan Services is quite  
10 clear the auto expenses incurred are a business expense and not a personal  
11 expense; and  
12

13 Whereas, The Apostle Paul in his first letter to the Thessalonians says in the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter,  
14 verses 12 -13:  
15 *Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to give recognition to those who labor*  
16 *among you and lead you in the Lord and admonish you, and to regard them*  
17 *very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.*  
18 (CSB).; and  
19

20 Whereas, The Apostle Paul in his first letter to Timothy chapter 5 verse 17 writes: *The*  
21 *elders who are good leaders are to be considered worthy of double*  
22 *honor,<sup>[a]</sup> especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.* (CSB).  
23 (Note: honor can also be rendered as respect or remuneration.); and  
24

25 Whereas, The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians chapter 6 verse 6 writes: *Let*  
26 *the one who is taught the word share all his good things with the teacher.*  
27 (CSB).; and  
28

29 Whereas, The Rocky Mountain District of the LCMS and all of the Districts of the LCMS  
30 are to be good examples and above reproach to our member congregations;  
31 therefore be it  
32

33 *Resolved,* That the Rocky Mountain District of the LCMS set an example and be above  
34 reproach to everyone In regards to mileage reimbursement.; and be it finally  
35

36 *Resolved,* That during this next triennium, and until the next convention, of the Rocky  
37 Mountain District of the LCMS that said district will at least observe and follow  
38 IRS guidelines for mileage reimbursement for those engaged in conducting  
39 business on behalf of and for the Rocky Mountain District of the LCMS.  
40

41 Submitted by:  
42 Northeast Circuit Forum  
43  
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# OVERTURES

1 **2022-03-01 TO RATIFY THE CIRCUIT VISITORS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT**

2  
3 Whereas, Synod bylaw 5.2.2 outlines the process and direction of electing Circuit  
4 Visitors and each Circuit has provided the names of those elected at each  
5 circuits respective forum; therefore be it

6  
7 Resolved, That the following individuals be ratified by the assembly of the  
8 52<sup>nd</sup> Rocky Mountain District Convention to serve as Circuit Visitor:

- 9  
10 Circuit 1 - Pecos - Rev. Jason Rust  
11  
12 Circuit 2 - Denver Northwest - Rev. Elisha Lietzau  
13  
14 Circuit 3 - Denver Southwest - Rev. John Larson  
15  
16 Circuit 4 - Long's Peak - Rev. Mark Nierman  
17  
18 Circuit 5 - Sandia North - Rev. Douglas Escue  
19  
20 Circuit 6 - Sangre de Cristo- Rev. Daniel Kletke  
21  
22 Circuit 7 - Northeastern - Rev. Dennis FitzPatrick  
23  
24 Circuit 8 - Utah - Rev. Anthony Masinelli  
25  
26 Circuit 9 - Western - Rev. Charles Westby  
27  
28 Circuit 10 - Rio Grande - Rev. Daniel Sattelmeier  
29  
30 Circuit 11 - Eastern High Plains - Rev. William Viergutz  
31  
32 Circuit 12 - Four Corners - Rev. Bror Erickson  
33  
34 Circuit 13 - Pike's Peak - Rev. James Maxwell  
35  
36 Circuit 14 - Denver Southeast - Rev. Roger Wohletz  
37  
38 Circuit 15 - Denver Northeast - Rev. Jeremy Jacoby  
39  
40 Circuit 16 - Rocky Flats - Rev. Keith Besel  
41  
42 Circuit 17 - Sandia South - Rev. Dustin Kear

43  
44 Submitted by:  
45 Floor Committee #3 - Life Together (Elections)  
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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH —  
MISSOURI SYNOD

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

**BYLAWS**

(Adopted June 5, 2015)



Reflecting proposed amendments  
considered and approved by the Board of Directors through April 11, 2022,  
and submitted to the District in Convention June 9–10, 2022  
(Material proposed to be deleted is in ~~red, bracketed, and crossed-through~~;  
material to be added is in blue, bolded, and underlined.)

**THE BYLAWS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT  
OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**

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## PREAMBLE

Recognizing the need for agreed upon order in the church, these District Bylaws are drafted. At the same time it is understood that the interpretation of these Bylaws is guided primarily by a commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and love and esteem for each other.

## ARTICLE I: ORGANIZATION

### 1.01 Name

The name of this District, a non-profit corporation of the State of Colorado, shall be the Rocky Mountain District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, hereinafter referred to as District.

### 1.02 Relationship to the Synod

The relationship of the District to the Synod shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. The Constitution of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is also the Constitution of The Rocky Mountain District and, for the purposes of the laws of the State of Colorado, the Constitution shall be deemed a part of the Bylaws of the District. ~~[In the event of any conflict between the Constitution and the District Bylaws, the provision of the Constitution shall control. The Bylaws of the Synod are primarily the Bylaws of the District.]~~ The Bylaws of the Synod are primarily the Bylaws of the District. In the event of any conflict between the Constitution or Bylaws of the Synod and the District Bylaws, the provision of the Constitution or Bylaws of the Synod shall control.

### 1.03 Purpose of the District

The Synod has established the District in order to more effectively achieve its objectives and carry on its activities.

### 1.04 Geographic ~~[-Areas-]~~ Regions

For the purpose of elections, the four geographic ~~[-areas-]~~ regions of the District shall be:

Central - The State of Colorado, counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Jefferson, Lake, Park, and Summit;

Eastern - The State of Colorado east of the Continental Divide (except the counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Jefferson, Lake, ~~[-and-]~~ Park, and Summit), Big Springs, and Venango, Nebraska;

- C. Southern - The State of New Mexico ~~[and]~~ ; the El Paso, Texas area; the areas in and around the Colorado cities of Cortez, Durango, and Pagosa Springs; the Moab, Utah area; and the Page, Arizona area; and,
- D. Western - The State of Utah (except the Moab, Utah area); and that part of the State of Colorado lying west of the Continental Divide (except the counties of Lake and Summit and the areas in and around the Colorado cities of Cortez, Durango, and Pagosa Springs) ~~[and Page, Arizona area]~~.

## 1.05 Membership

### A. Qualifications of Members

The membership of the Rocky Mountain District shall consist of members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ~~[(Congregations, Ordained Ministers and Commissioned Ministers) which are located within the geographical area of the Rocky Mountain District]~~ (Congregations located within the geographical area of the Rocky Mountain District and individual members, consisting of Ordained and Commissioned Ministers, assigned membership in the District).

### B. Definitions

1. Congregations are those that are listed on the Synod's Official Roster.
2. Ordained Ministers are those ~~[-who are-]~~ Individual Members listed on the Synod's Official Roster.
3. Commissioned Ministers are those ~~[-individuals-]~~ Individual Members listed on the Synod's Official Roster, having been admitted to specific auxiliary ministries as listed in Synod Bylaw 2.6.1.1 ~~[-and as Advisory Members with titles listed in Article V of the Synod's Constitution-]~~.

## 1.06 Authority

- A. The final authority of the District shall be the member congregations, represented by the delegates to the District Convention. All elected boards, officers, commissions and committees shall be held responsible for implementing Convention policies and resolutions.
- B. The Board of Directors is the body of the District responsible for managing the business and legal affairs of the district between conventions.

## ARTICLE II: ADMINISTRATION

### 2.01 Board of Directors

#### A. Membership

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of fourteen (14) voting members elected by the District Convention. The membership shall be as follows:
  - a. The District President;
  - b. Four (4) Vice-Presidents, one from each of the four geographic ~~[-areas-]~~ regions of the District;
  - c. The Secretary;
  - d. Two (2) commissioned ministers, one from each of any two geographic ~~[-areas-]~~ regions of the District; and
  - e. Six (6) lay persons, one from each of the four geographic ~~[-areas-]~~ regions of the District and one from each of the two ~~[-areas-]~~ regions not represented by the two commissioned ministers. The Board shall also have the authority to choose to appoint to the board up to three voting lay members from the district's congregations to obtain additional skill sets (legal, finance, investment, administration, etc.).
  - f. Each member of the Board representing a geographic region of the District shall, throughout the term of service, hold membership in a congregation of that geographic region.
2. All members of the Board must be members of ~~[ voting congregations ]~~ member congregations of the District. Only one member of a congregation can be elected or appointed as a member of the Board. This limitation shall not apply to the election of the President. ~~[-If there is more than one nomination from the same congregation, the person from the congregation receiving the greater number of votes, is elected.-]~~ When a member of a congregation has been elected to the Board of Directors (except for the President), no other member from that congregation is eligible for nomination or election.
3. A vacancy shall occur whenever a member ~~[-leaves-]~~ is no longer a member of a member congregation within the geographic ~~[-area-]~~ region from which the member was elected.



## B. Responsibilities

1. The Board of Directors shall enact policies and supervise the implementation of the will of the District, as expressed in these Bylaws and District Convention resolutions.
2. The Board of Directors shall be custodian of the District's valuable papers and shall act as trustees of the District. As such, the Board is authorized to buy, sell, mortgage, exchange and insure real estate or other property of the District.
3. The Board is also authorized and required to protect the District by means of a blanket fidelity bond and shall determine the amount of that bond.
4. After obtaining input in a variety of ways and pledges from District Congregations, the Board of Directors shall adopt the annual fiscal year district mission and ministry program including consideration of the pledges from the District's Congregations.
5. Under each annual budget the Board of Directors shall set the salary of the President, appointed executives and other District employees as well as the terms of housing allowances, provisions for transportation, etc.
6. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for providing, at District expense and in Metropolitan Denver, office facilities and equipment adequate to meet the District's needs and allow the efficient functioning of District personnel.
7. The Board of Directors shall supervise the District treasury and determine the depository of District funds.
- ~~8. The Board of Directors shall approve all applications for loans from Lutheran Church Extension Fund-Missouri Synod.]~~
- ~~[9.]~~ **8.** The Board of Directors is authorized to borrow money from Lutheran Church Extension Fund-Missouri Synod or from any other source, for operating funds to carry on the work of the District.
- ~~[10.]~~ **9.** The Board of Directors shall authorize, direct, supervise, and coordinate the work of all commissions and committees.
- ~~[11.]~~ **10.** The Board of Directors shall fill vacancies occurring in any elective or appointive office or on any commission or committee, except circuit ~~[counselors]~~ **Visitors** and the Nominating Committee.

~~[+12-]~~ **11.** The Board of Directors shall communicate the work of the District to the congregations.

~~[+13-]~~ **12.** The Board of Directors is entitled to send one representative from the Board of Directors and one representative from the Executive Staff as District Advisory Delegates to the conventions of the Synod.

**13. Between conventions, the Board of Directors shall provide for implementation within the District of the decisions of the national and district conventions and allocate necessary funds for the support of the national and district budgets.**

**14. The Board of Directors shall appoint a committee, board, or individual responsible for stewardship, including cooperation with the Synod's elected or appointed person(s) responsible for stewardship, and assisting and advising local congregations in the development and promotion of an adequate stewardship program.**

**15. The Board of Directors may appoint a committee, board, or individual to work with the Synod's Office of National Mission in that Office's mission responsibilities and support of district ministries that support congregations and schools.**

C. Board Officers and Commissions

1. The Board of Directors shall annually elect from its ranks of membership, a Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors. In the event either is unable to complete the one-year term, the Board shall conduct a replacement election. The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall be the District President, the District Secretary, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors. The responsibilities, as members, of the Executive Committee shall be:

- a) The Chairman shall preside over Board meetings in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and in accordance with other related policies established by the Board of Directors. The authority of the Chairman, as constituted by this office, is limited to the leadership of the Board and its Commissions and does not extend beyond this role except as a representative of the Board.
- b) The Executive Committee shall serve as advisors to the Chairman and the President in establishing the Board meeting agendas.
- c) The Executive Committee shall have no authority except where

empowered by the Board. In addition, the Executive Committee shall have authority to act in times of emergency between plenary meetings of the Board to act on delegated assignments, and to act as specified elsewhere in the Synod Bylaws. The Executive Committee may not perform acts specifically required by statute or by legislation or the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod to be performed by the Board or the District in Convention, nor may they overturn actions of the Board or the District in Convention. All Executive Committee actions shall be reported to plenary meetings of the Board.

- d) The Vice-Chairman of the Board shall be empowered as Chairman when requested by the Chairman of the Board and in the Chairman's absence.
- e) The Board of Directors may appoint from its ranks Commissions, as needed, with the President of the District and the Chairman of the Board of Directors serving as ex officio (non-voting) members of all Commissions.

#### D. Meetings

1. All meetings of the Board of Directors shall be open to attendance by any member of any congregation in the District, except that the Board of Directors may enter into an Executive Session when deliberating personnel matters, legal matters, or economic negotiations, thus, giving respect to individual confidential matters.
2. The Board of Directors shall meet ~~[-three-]~~ **four** times annually ~~[-as-]~~ **at** a minimum. It shall meet at the call of the President within sixty days after every District Convention to organize itself and make necessary appointments. Special meetings may be called by the President or five members of the Board. In the event the President determines that a decision is necessary before the next meeting of the Board of Directors, he, in collaboration with the Chairman of the Board, is authorized to set up, **in accordance with Synod Bylaws and applicable Synod Board of Directors policies:**
  - a) a telephone conference call ~~[-and/or E-mail communications and/-]~~ or web meeting~~[s-]~~ with all available Board members. A majority of the votes of a quorum of the members of the Board of Directors is necessary ~~[-in order to resolve the situation.-]~~ **to approve any motion on the issue at hand;**
  - b) **a vote by means of E-mail communication. An action taken by**

such a vote shall require a unanimous vote in favor, with all voting members casting a vote.

3. After obtaining input from the District Congregations, the Board shall adopt the annual District Mission and Ministry program.
4. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
5. The Chairman of the Board of Directors or the Vice-Chairman of the Board shall preside at all meetings of the Board. The District Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all Board meetings.

## 2.02 Elected Officers

The elected officers of the District shall be:

- A. A President (an ordained minister) who shall be a full-time executive unless otherwise permitted in these Bylaws. A President serving on a full-time basis shall live ~~[-in the Denver area-]~~ within a hundred-mile radius of the Rocky Mountain District office, unless an exemption is made by the District Board of Directors;
- B. Four Vice-Presidents (ordained ministers); the Vice Presidents are to be elected as ~~[-a]~~ representatives of each of the four geographic ~~[-areas-]~~ regions of the District;
- C. A Secretary (an ordained minister); and,
- D. A ~~[-Counselor-]~~ Visitor for each Circuit of the District (an ordained minister).

## 2.03 Duties of the President

- A. The duties of the District President shall include those prescribed by the Synod and found in the Synod's Handbook.
- B. While being the Synod's representative to the District, the President shall also be the spokesman on behalf of the District to the Synod.
- C. He shall be the official spokesman for the District in public matters.
- D. The President shall be a full-time executive. He may also be called as ~~[-an assistant pastor-]~~ a pastor in an assisting capacity only, provided such services do not interfere with his official duties as President.
- E. The President shall be the chief executive ~~[-officer-]~~ of the Board of Directors.

1. The President shall keep the Board advised as to matters relating to its responsibilities and the welfare of the District.
  2. The President shall be an ex officio (non-voting) member of all committees or special committees appointed by the Board and in such cases may appoint a representative to serve in his behalf.
  3. The President, in collaboration with the Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, shall prepare the agenda for each meeting of the Board of Directors.
  4. When positions have been authorized by the District Convention, the President shall have the right to advise concerning, and consent to, any appointment or removal by the Board of Directors of District executives and appointed officers.
  5. Office personnel for such positions as have been authorized by the Board of Directors are to be hired or terminated by the President or his designee.
- F. The President shall be chief executive ~~[-officer]~~ of the District.
1. The President shall supervise the work of all missionaries-at-large.
  2. The President shall maintain an accurate roster of congregations, ordained ministers and commissioned ministers serving within the District.
  3. The President shall maintain records of all transactions affecting the work of the District.
  4. The President shall sign official documents on behalf of the District.
- G. The President shall preside or participate in District events, insofar as is practical.
1. The President, after consultation with the Vice-Presidents, shall arrange the program of the Convention, determine the subject of the essay, appoint the essayist and except for the Nominating Committee, appoint all Convention committees.
  2. The President shall preside over and make a report to the District Convention.
  3. The President shall attend District-wide conferences of ordained ministers and commissioned ministers.

4. The President shall appoint committees to review the minutes of such conferences.
  5. The President shall be responsible for the ordination and installation of ordained ministers and commissioned ministers within the District.
  6. The President, when appropriate, shall participate in events within the District sponsored by lay groups.
- H. Especially, the President shall serve the constituency of the District as its chief ~~[-Counselor and Theologian-]~~ Ecclesiastical Supervisor.
1. The President shall supervise the doctrine, life and official administration of the professional church workers of the District.
  2. The President shall train, supervise and counsel the Circuit ~~[-Counselors-]~~ Visitors and when appropriate may call upon them to assist in the implementation of his responsibilities within their prescribed areas. He or a designee shall visit the congregations of the Circuit ~~[-Counselors-]~~ Visitors once in three years and otherwise as he deems it necessary.
  3. The President shall inquire into the prevailing religious conditions within the congregations of the District.
  4. When controversy arises within a congregation the President shall make official visits or investigations, whether or not invited.
  5. The President shall advise congregations as to the calling of ordained ministers and commissioned ministers.
  6. The President shall be a student of the Word and the world, keeping abreast of developments affecting the church and recommending suitable action to meet challenges and opportunities.
  7. The President shall serve as an example for District ordained ministers, commissioned ministers and congregations by his Christian conduct, and under the grace of God, do all within his ability and scope of his calling to build up the District and its congregations for the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ.
- I. With regard to the Vice-Presidents, the President shall:
1. Call upon their assistance in any way that would appear to be helpful. He shall ask their advice and service as he may desire but need not be bound by their counsel.

2. Keep them informed at all times on conditions within the District.
- J. The President shall maintain an active working file on all matters. Said file shall be turned over to his successor when and where appropriate.

#### **2.04 Duties of the Vice-Presidents**

The rights and duties of the Vice-Presidents of the District shall be, when appropriate, the same as those prescribed for the Vice- Presidents of the Synod as outlined in the Synod's Handbook. The Vice-Presidents shall, upon request of the President or as may be provided by the District, advise, assist or represent the President.

#### **2.05 Duties of the Secretary**

- A. The Secretary shall record the proceedings during the District Convention. In accordance with the instructions given by the District, he shall publish the proceedings of the District Convention. He shall prepare the manuscript, recording all resolutions in the wording in which they were adopted by the convention, and publish the proceedings after the District President has approved the manuscript.
- B. The Secretary shall draw up or cause to be drawn up all official papers and documents of the District and shall sign the same together with the District President in the name of the District, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.
- C. The Secretary shall receive a copy of the signed constitution of all congregations received into membership in the district. He shall also preserve the required signatures to the Constitution of the Synod provided by the officers of the congregation and shall record the year in which the congregation is received into membership.
- D. The Secretary shall notify every member of the District elected to a District office of his election. He shall also notify all commissions and committees of resolutions concerning them so that the resolutions may be implemented as soon as possible.
- E. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors.
- F. The Secretary shall send the minutes of all Board meetings to each Circuit Visitor.
- G. At least six months before the District Convention, the ~~The~~ Secretary

shall mail to each voting congregation a ~~[-ballot-]~~ form for the nomination of one candidate for President ~~[-at least six months before the District Convention. At the same time, a ballot shall be included-]~~ and a form for the nomination of a candidate for First Vice-President and for a candidate for ~~[-the-]~~ its ~~[-area-]~~ regional Vice-President and a form requesting suggestions for candidates for the positions listed in Section 3.01.D. The Secretary shall provide each voting congregation with the proper credentials required to be returned to entitle the congregation's designated voting ordained minister and voting lay delegate to vote at the Convention, in accordance with Section 4.02.

- H. The Secretary shall keep a record of the results of all balloting at District Conventions in order to preserve a list of names for consideration in filling vacancies.
- I. Advisory ordained ministers, specific ministry pastors, and commissioned ministers shall meet at the call of the Secretary to select nonvoting advisory delegates to the Convention of the Synod in accordance with the Synod's Bylaws. These groups shall meet either during the District Convention, or at official district conferences of ordained and/or commissioned ministers or via electronic means.
- J. The names and addresses of all voting and nonvoting advisory delegates and representatives and their alternates shall be forwarded by the District Secretary before the announced registration deadline to the Secretary of the Synod on registration forms provided by the latter.
- K. The Secretary, or an appointee, shall be the Administrator of the Dispute Resolution Process in accordance with the Synod's Bylaws and the LCMS Handbook. If the secretary is a party to the matter in dispute, has a conflict of interest, or serves as a witness, then the President shall appoint an administrator of the process in the matter.

## **2.06 Duties of the Circuit Visitors**

- A. Conduct Circuit Pastors Conferences, Circuit Forums and Circuit Convocations;
- B. Perform those duties prescribed in the Synod's Handbook;
- C. Assist, when requested, the President in carrying out his responsibilities within the Circuit;
- D. Visit each congregation once in three years and otherwise as he deems it necessary; and,



- E. Submit names of persons to be considered by the Board of Directors for appointment to the District roster of Reconcilers.

## 2.07 Appointed District Reconcilers

The appointment and duties of District Reconcilers shall be in accordance with the LCMS Handbook.

## 2.08 Appointed Executives

### A. ~~Appointed executives may include:~~

- ~~1.—District Executive Missions, who shall be under the direction and supervision of the District President. He shall be in charge of the mission programs of the District. In addition he shall perform such other duties as the District President may assign;;~~
- ~~2.—A District Executive Congregational Services, who shall be under the direction and supervision of the District President. He shall be in charge of the Congregational Services programs of the District. In addition he shall perform such other duties as the District President may assign;~~
- ~~3.—A District Executive Administration who shall be under the direction and supervision of the District President. The District President shall call upon the District Executive Administration to assist him in carrying out the work in business matters; and the District Executive Administration shall perform such other duties as the District President may assign.~~

~~B.—Appointed executives shall]~~ **District executives may** be appointed by the Board of Directors with the advice and consent of the President and may be removed in the same manner. Any such removal shall be handled with Christian concern and in accordance with Section 3.03 C.4. **District executives shall perform duties as assigned by the President.**

~~[C] B.~~ **B.** When appointment of a District Executive, or other appointed executive ~~[s-are-]~~ **is** to be made by the Board of Directors, the Board ~~[-of Directors-]~~ shall provide ample opportunity for the congregations of the District to nominate candidates for the ~~[-vacant-]~~ office. ~~[An official list of all candidates nominated shall be published on the Rocky Mountain District website and in other communications. Ample opportunity shall be provided for congregations to submit objections or additional information concerning any candidate before the appointment is made by the Board.]~~

## 2.09 Appointed Officers

- A. The following officers shall be appointed by the Board of Directors with the advice of the President. Any removal from such office shall be handled with Christian concern following the same procedure. They shall be directly responsible to the President or his designee. The appointed officers shall be:
1. A Treasurer (a lay person);
  2. An Archivist-Historian; **and**
  3. An Assistant Secretary ~~†~~
  4. ~~An Editor of the Rocky Mountain District Edition of THE LUTHERAN WITNESS]~~.

## 2.10 Accountability of Officers, Commissions and Committees

- A. All officers, commissions and committees whether appointed by the Board of Directors or established by District Convention shall be accountable to the District for their transactions and every decision of such officers, board, commissions and committees may be appealed to the next District Convention, provided, however, that this provision shall not affect the finality of any sale of property, purchase of property, or borrowing of money where the transaction has been authorized by the Board of Directors and concluded in accordance with the terms of said authorization. Between District Conventions all officers, commissions and committees shall be accountable through their supervisors, if any, to the Board of Directors.
- B. The Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee are directly accountable to the District Convention.

## 2.11 Policies and Administrative Manual

1. The specific duties of appointed officers, executives, and committees of the District, as well as the normal policies and procedures of the District shall be stated in the Rocky Mountain District's Policies and Administrative Manual. This manual will be maintained by district staff and ~~[-will]~~ **shall** be subject to periodic review and approval by the Board of Directors. In the event of any conflict between the District Bylaws and the District Policies and Administrative Manual, the provision of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and the Bylaws of the district shall control.

## ARTICLE III: NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

### 3.01 Nominations

#### A. Responsibility for Nominations

1. The congregations of the District shall nominate candidates for District President and the four ~~[-area-]~~ regional Vice-Presidents.
2. The congregations of ~~[-the-]~~ each Circuit shall nominate candidates for Circuit ~~[-Counselor-]~~ Visitor for their circuit.
3. The Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates for District Secretary, for membership on the Board of Directors, ~~[-and-]~~ for membership on the Nominating Committee ~~[-. For alternating conventions, the Nominating Committee shall also nominate candidates for (a member plus and alternate)-], and for~~ the Synod's Committee for Convention Nominations (a member plus an alternate) under the direction of the Secretary of the Synod who will notify each District whether a professional church worker or a lay person shall be elected at that time ~~[-, with the stipulation that the roles are reversed every six years-]~~.
4. The Nominating Committee elected by the District Convention shall consist of five members: two ordained ministers, two laypersons and one commissioned minister. There shall be one ordained minister or one layperson elected from each of the four geographic ~~[-areas-]~~ regions of the District. The commissioned minister shall be elected from the District at large. Nominations from the floor ~~[-will-]~~ shall be accepted.
5. The committee elected shall serve for the next District Convention. The committee shall meet, at the call of the President, within ~~[-four-]~~ six months after having been elected to choose a chairman and a secretary and to set a date for the next meeting (or future meetings). A vacancy shall occur whenever a member ~~[-leaves-]~~ is no longer a member of a congregation within the geographic ~~[-area-]~~ region from which the member was elected.

#### B. Procedure for Nominating Candidates for the Office of District President

1. Each voting congregation shall be entitled to nominate one ordained minister from the roster of ordained ministers of the Synod as a candidate for District President.
2. The Secretary of the District shall mail to each voting congregation of the District a ~~[-ballot-]~~ form for nominating a candidate.

3. Each **completed** nominating ~~[-ballot-]~~ **form** shall be signed by the President and the Secretary of the voting congregation, and shall be sent to the Secretary of the District not later than four months prior to the opening date of the Convention.
4. The Secretary of the District together with the Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall tabulate the nominations and shall report to the Convention by means of the Convention Workbook of Reports and Overtures the names of all candidates who have received at least five **nominations** ~~[-votes-]~~, together with their biographical sketches, stating particularly the previous offices held and a brief comment by each nominee if he desires, for the purpose of providing helpful information to the voting delegates.
5. If one or no **candidate for** District President ~~[-candidates-]~~ remains at any time after the date of receiving the nominating ~~[-ballots-]~~ **forms** according to Section 3.01.B.3 and before the District Convention is convened, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee ~~[-is empowered to-]~~ **may** choose a new deadline for receiving nominations from the congregations and ~~[-to-]~~ direct the District Secretary to reissue the call for nominations for District President by the congregations according to Section 3.01.B.3. If the Nominating Committee ~~[-judges-]~~ **determines** that the time is not sufficient for securing nominations **from the congregations**, then ~~[-the delegate(s) from each congregation is (are) empowered to-]~~ **any voting delegate may** nominate one candidate from the floor at an appropriate time during the convention. The procedure shall include making a ~~[-motion to nominate-]~~ **nomination** and receiving a second. The delegate making a ~~[-motion to nominate-]~~ **nomination** from the floor shall have secured prior written consent to nominate the candidate whom the delegate wishes to nominate. Such delegate shall immediately submit to the Secretary of the District this document and written pertinent biographical information concerning the nominee as ~~[-detailed-]~~ **described** in section 3.01.B.4. The District President or presiding officer for the Convention, after determining that the delegate has followed the required procedures, shall request an immediate vote ~~[-on the motion-]~~, without a discussion of the motion or any verbal characterization of the nominee, **on whether to place the nominee's name on the ballot for President**. A majority vote is required ~~[-for the motion to pass-]~~ **to do so**. Additional nominations from the floor shall be permitted until the delegates vote to close nominations from the floor or no further ~~[-motions to nominate-]~~ **nominations** are offered.

C. Procedure for Nominating Candidates for the Four Offices of Vice President

1. Each **voting** congregation is entitled to nominate one ordained minister of the ~~[-Synod-]~~ **District** for the office of First Vice President. No consideration need be given to geographic ~~[-areas-]~~ **regions**.
  2. Each congregation shall further be entitled to nominate one ordained minister of the ~~[-Synod-]~~ **District** ~~[-as-a-candidate-for-its-area-]~~ **for the office of** ~~[-area-]~~ **regional** Vice President **representing the geographic** ~~[-area-]~~ **region to which the congregation belongs**. This candidate shall be ~~[-from-]~~ **a member of a congregation within** the congregation's geographic ~~[-area-]~~ **region**.
  3. The Secretary of the District shall mail to each voting congregation of the District a ~~[-ballot-]~~ **form** for nominating a candidate for First Vice President and a candidate for its ~~[-areas-]~~ **regional** Vice President.
  4. Each **completed** nominating ~~[-ballot-]~~ **form** shall be signed by the President and the Secretary of the voting congregation and shall be sent to the Secretary of the District no later than four months prior to the opening date of the Convention.
  5. The Secretary of the District together with the Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall tabulate the nominations and shall report to the Convention by means of the Convention Workbook of Reports and Overtures the names of the five nominees receiving the highest number of ~~[-votes-]~~ **nominations** (more in case of a tie for the fifth nominee), together with their biographical sketches, stating particularly the previous offices held and a brief comment by each nominee if he desires, for the purpose of providing helpful information to the voting delegates.
  - 6. If one or no candidate for First Vice President remains at any time after the date of receiving the nominations according to Section 3.01.C.4 and before the District Convention is convened, then the nomination of additional candidates for First Vice President shall be allowed following the same procedure as that for candidates for President in Section 3.01.B.5.**
- D. Procedure for Nominating Candidates for the Office of District Secretary, Membership on the Board of Directors, the Nominating Committee, and for the Synod's Committee for Convention Nominations
- 1. The Secretary of the District shall mail to each voting congregation of the District a form requesting suggestions for candidates for the positions listed in this Section.**
  - 2. The Nominating Committee shall:**

~~[1. The Nominating Committee shall nominate]~~ **a. Nominate** at least two candidates for **each of the following:** the office of District Secretary, ~~[and at least two candidates for]~~ each position on the Board of Directors, the District Nominating Committee, and ~~[at least two candidates each for the member and for the alternate for]~~ the Synod's Committee for Convention Nominations.

~~[2. The Nominating Committee shall:~~

- ~~a. Circularize the congregations of the District, at least thirty days prior to preparing a slate, requesting suggestions for candidates for the vacancies listed in Paragraph D.1 immediately preceding;]~~
- b. Nominate candidates for elective offices, boards, commissions and committees in conformity with these Bylaws, in sufficient time so that these names may be included in the Convention Workbook of Reports and Overtures. In addition to the names, the Committee is to supply a brief biography of the persons nominated stating particularly the previous offices held by such nominees and a brief comment by each nominee if he or she desires, for the purpose of providing helpful information to the voting delegates; and,
- c. Present the nominations to the District Convention for adoption and give the delegates opportunity to nominate from the floor.

E. Procedure for Nominating Candidates for the office of Circuit Visitor

1. The circuit visitor shall hold his position by virtue of his selection by the circuit forum and ratification by the district convention. The circuit visitor nomination and selection processes are to be handled in accordance with the Bylaws of the Synod. Consent-to-serve and biographical information should be included with nominations sent by congregations to the circuit forum. The selection must be completed ~~[4]~~ **four** months prior to the district convention and reported to the secretary of the district in preparation for ratification by the district convention.
2. The Convention shall have the right to alter the slate by amendment.
3. The Convention shall then ~~[ratify]~~ **vote on ratifying** the slate of circuit visitors, which ratification shall constitute election.

### **3.02 Elections**

A. Responsibility for Elections

The responsibility to conduct and supervise the elections at the District

Convention is vested in the Elections Committee, appointed by the President and consisting of two ordained ministers, two lay persons and one commissioned minister.

B. Procedure

1. The President shall be elected first, early in the Convention. Each voting delegate shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates for President. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.

2. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast

If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, a second or successive ballot(s) will be required; the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot. [~~-, the candidate with lowest number of votes and all candidates with less than fifteen percent (15%) of the votes shall be eliminated and another ballot shall be cast.~~]

3. Then shall follow the [~~election of~~] balloting for the First Vice-President in the same manner as that for the President until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

~~[On the next ballot,]~~ Then shall follow the balloting for each of the Vice-Presidents for the three remaining geographic [~~areas~~] regions [~~shall be elected~~]. [~~All~~] Each voting delegate[~~s~~] shall be entitled to vote for one of the candidates for Vice-President from each [~~of the three remaining geographic areas~~] regions. [~~The candidate from each geographic area who receives the highest majority vote shall be declared elected an area Vice-President.~~] The balloting for each regional Vice President shall proceed in the same manner as that for the President until one candidate for each region receives a majority of the votes cast.

~~[5. If a candidate from any of the geographic areas does not receive a majority vote, another ballot shall be taken after eliminating the candidate with the least number of votes and all candidates with less than fifteen percent (15%) of the votes in each geographic area. This procedure shall be followed until a majority vote has elected a Vice-President in each geographic area.]~~

~~5. [6. A ballot shall then be taken by all the voting delegates.]~~ Then shall follow the balloting to choose which of the ~~[three]~~ Vice Presidents for the three remaining geographic regions ~~[(B4, B5)]~~ shall be the ~~[s]~~Second Vice President, which shall proceed in the same manner as that for the President until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. ~~[Another ballot shall then be taken to elect the third and fourth Vice Presidents respectively.]~~

6. Then shall follow the balloting to elect the Third Vice President from among the two remaining regional Vice Presidents, by a majority of the votes cast. The remaining Vice President shall then be declared elected Fourth Vice President.

7. In the ~~[election to-]~~ balloting for all other elective ~~[-offices, boards, commissions and committees-]~~ positions, the candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast ~~[-on the first ballot-]~~ shall be declared elected. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast on the first ballot, ~~[balloting shall continue until a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. The candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than fifteen percent (15%) of the votes shall be eliminated from the next ballot.]~~ However, if ~~[fewer than two]~~ none or one of the candidates receive ~~15% or more of the votes, the three candidates receiving the most votes shall constitute the ballot.]~~ a second or successive ballot(s) will be required; the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless fewer than two candidates receive 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot.

8. Upon the adoption of the slate of candidates for remaining positions, the Committee shall prepare the ballots for presentation to the Convention, insuring that the candidates for District Secretary, Board of Directors, and Nominating Committee appear on separate ballots and are presented in the order just stated. Any candidate from a congregation from which a person has already been elected to the Board (other than the President) is ineligible and shall be eliminated from the remaining slate of candidates.

9. Following the election of the Secretary ~~[-those candidates from a congregation from which a person has already been elected to the Board are ineligible and shall be eliminated from the slate of candidates. There shall then be two elections by all of the delegates:]~~ balloting shall occur for the remaining positions on the Board of Directors. Each position shall be



**elected one at a time; all eligible candidates shall be listed on the ballot for each position.**

- a. The first **two** elections **to the Board** shall be for two commissioned ministers, each of whom shall be from a different geographic ~~[-area-]~~ **region**. ~~[-No more than one may be elected per area. If two or more receive a majority vote in their respective area, the one receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected.-]~~
  - b. The ~~[-second-]~~ **next six** elections **to the Board** shall be for six laypersons. ~~[-All candidates from congregations from which a person has already been elected to the Board are ineligible and shall be eliminated from the slate.-]~~ One layperson shall be elected from each of the four geographic ~~[-areas-]~~ **regions** ~~[-for-]~~ **of** the District and an additional one from each of the two ~~[-areas-]~~ **regions** not represented by the two commissioned ministers.
10. Following the election of the Board of Directors the Nominating Committee shall be elected. **Each position shall be elected one at a time; all eligible candidates shall be listed on the ballot for each position. Balloting shall occur for one ordained minister or one layperson elected from each of the four geographic regions of the District and one commissioned minister elected from the District at large. Nominations for the Nominating Committee shall be accepted from the floor.** ~~[-If two or more candidates (except a commissioned minister) from the same geographic area receive a majority vote, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. If three or more ordained ministers or laypersons receive a majority vote the two receiving the highest number of votes are elected and the other is eliminated from further consideration. If succeeding ballots are required, all candidates for positions already elected shall be eliminated from the ballot. For those positions still open the candidate with the least number of votes for each position, and all candidates with less than fifteen percent (15%) of the votes shall be eliminated. Balloting shall continue until one ordained minister (a total of two) or one layperson (a total of two) is elected from each geographic area and one commissioned minister is elected from the District-at-large.-]~~
11. There shall ~~[-be-]~~ **follow, at alternating conventions of the district, as called for by the Secretary of the Synod,** two elections for the Synod's Committee for Convention Nominations. Balloting in the first election shall continue until the **District's** member **of the Committee** is elected by a majority **of the** votes **cast.** **All the other candidates for member shall then be listed on the ballot for alternate.** Balloting in the second election

shall continue until the alternate has been elected by a majority of the votes cast.

12. The Elections Committee shall conduct the ratification ballot for Circuit ~~[-Counselors-]~~ Visitors. Ratification of the nominees constitutes the election.
13. In conducting the elections no one shall be permitted to cast a ballot after the Elections Committee on the floor of the Convention has declared the election for that slate closed.
14. A report shall be made to the Convention on the outcome of each ballot before the presentation of a new ballot. The Elections Committee shall report the results of all balloting to the Secretary of the District for recording, in order to preserve a list of names for consideration in filling vacancies.
15. At the conclusion of the elections, the Elections Committee shall offer a motion that all elections be declared unanimous.

### **3.03 Term of Office**

#### **A. Elected Officers**

1. The term of office of the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Circuit Visitors shall be three years, with incumbents serving until their successors assume office. No elected officer shall serve more than three complete successive terms in the same office, provided that no period of time served in filling a vacancy in the office shall be included in such computation.
2. In the event a full-time President who has not reached the age of eligibility for retirement and pension benefits fails to be re-elected President, or if he has completed his maximum period in office, or if he elects to resign for a reason satisfactory to the Board of Directors, he shall receive his full salary for a period not to exceed twelve months. The payment of the salary shall be terminated if, within the twelve-month period, he accepts another position or becomes eligible for retirement and pension benefits.

#### **B. Elected Boards, Commissions and Committees**

The term of office of members of elected Boards, Commissions and Committees shall be three years, with incumbents serving until their successors assume office. No person shall serve more than three successive

terms on the same Board, Commission or Committee, provided that no period of time served in filling a vacancy on the Board, Commission or Committee shall be included in such computation.

C. Appointed Executives, Officers and Reconcilers

1. The term of office of appointed executives shall be four years from the date of appointment. The term of office of appointed officers shall be three years from the date of appointment or until their successors have been appointed. The term of office of appointed reconcilers shall be six years.
2. Appointed executives shall receive an evaluation of their work at least annually by the District President. If the work of the appointed executive s proves satisfactory, and if there is continuing need for their services, the appointed executives may normally expect reappointment. The decision on reappointment shall be made at least 3 months prior to the expiration of the four year term.
3. If the Board of Directors shall decide not to renew the appointment, a 90-day notice shall be given to the executive, said period to begin on the first day of the following month. If the 90- day period should extend beyond the regular termination date, full salary shall continue to be paid for services rendered until the expiration of the 90-day period. During the 90-day period the Board of Directors shall assist the executive, if requested, in his efforts to find another opportunity for service in the church. If he succeeds in obtain ing other employment before the expiration of the 90 days, his salary shall cease by the first of the following month. In addition to the foregoing provisions, an additional month's salary shall be allowed as severance pay on actual termination of service.
4. The Board of Directors may by majority vote also terminate for cause, the services of its executives before the end of the four-year term. Valid cause for dismissal ~~is~~ shall include adherence to false doctrine, conduct unbecoming a Christian, neglect of office, or ~~refusal to cooperate~~ insubordination. In such instances none of the foregoing financial arrangements shall apply. One month's salary shall be allowed as severance pay.

**3.04 Limitation on Holding Office**

- A. No one, either in the Synod or ~~in~~ the District, or between the Synod and the District, shall hold more than one elective office, or hold more than two offices, although one or both be ~~appointed~~ appointive; or ~~even~~ ever hold two offices of which one is directly responsible for the work done by the other.

Doubtful cases shall be decided by the President of the Synod.

- B. The Nominating Committee of the Rocky Mountain District is to be regarded as an Ad Hoc Convention Committee to which limitations on holding multiple offices do not apply.
- C. The limitations of holding multiple offices do not apply to reconcilers.

**3.05** ~~[-Election and Succession to the Presidency]~~ Installation of the President and Vice Presidents

- A. ~~[-When an ordained minister is elected by the convention to the office of District President, he shall not be required to accept the office and be installed at the Convention but shall have not more than ten (10) days from the date of his election to make his decision and give written notice of that decision to the Board of Directors.]~~ The President-elect shall be installed within sixty days from the date of his election and shall assume the office of District President immediately after his installation. For effecting a smooth transition, the outgoing District President and the President-elect shall work together for up to 30 days.
- B. If the man elected President declines, the man who was elected First Vice-President shall thereby become President-elect and shall be notified thereof by the Board of Directors and the District Secretary. ~~[-The man elected First Vice President shall have not more than fifteen (15) days from the date of his notification to decide whether or not to accept the office of full-time President and give written notice of that decision to the Board of Directors.]~~
- C. If the man elected First Vice-President also declines to serve as full-time President, the man who was elected Second Vice-President shall thereby become President-elect and shall be notified thereof by the Board of Directors and the District Secretary. ~~[-The man elected Second Vice-President shall have not more than fifteen (15) days from the date of his notification to decide whether or not to accept the office of full-time President and give written notice of that decision to the Board of Directors.]~~
- D. If the man elected Second Vice-President also declines to serve as full-time President, the man who was elected Third Vice-President shall thereby become President-elect and shall be notified by the Board of Directors and the District Secretary. ~~[-The man elected Third Vice-President shall have not more than fifteen (15) days from the date of his notification to decide whether or not to accept the office of full-time President and give written notice of that decision to the Board of Directors.]~~

E. If the man elected Third Vice-President also declines to serve as full-time President, the man who was elected Fourth Vice-President shall thereby become President-elect and shall be notified by the Board of Directors **and the District Secretary**. ~~[-The man elected Fourth Vice-President shall have not more than fifteen (15) days from the date of his notification to decide whether or not to accept the office of full-time President and give written notice of that decision to the Board of Directors.-]~~

**F. A man elected Vice-President who is notified that he is next in the line of succession to become President-elect shall have not more than fifteen (15) days from the date of his notification to decide whether or not to accept the office of full-time President and give written notice of that decision to the Board of Directors and the District Secretary.**

~~[-F.-]~~ **G.** If the man elected Fourth Vice-President also declines to serve as full-time President, the man elected as President by the Convention **—or, if he is unable to serve, then the man elected First Vice-President —** shall serve as President on a part-time basis. He shall prepare at the earliest practical time a plan for redistribution of any appropriate duties of the presidency among the vice-presidents, appointed executives, or others. The plan shall be presented to the Board of Directors and upon approval by the Board shall be effective until the office of the President is filled on a full-time basis or until changed by the Board, whichever shall occur first.

~~[-G.-]~~ **H.** The President in office at the time of the Convention shall continue in office until his successor has accepted the office of President and has been installed.

~~[-H.-]~~ ~~If the First Vice-President declines the office of President under the foregoing procedure, he shall continue to serve as First Vice-President.~~

~~I. — If the Second Vice-President declines the office of President under the foregoing procedure, he shall continue to serve as Second Vice-President.~~

~~J. — If the Third Vice-President declines the office of President under the foregoing procedure, he shall continue to serve as Third Vice-President.~~

~~K. — If the Fourth Vice-President declines the office of President under the foregoing procedure, he shall continue to serve as Fourth Vice-President.]~~

**L. If any Vice-President-elect or Vice-President declines the office of President under the foregoing procedure, he shall continue to assume office or serve as Vice-President.**

~~[H.]~~ **J.** A vacancy in any Vice-Presidency caused by the foregoing procedure shall be filled by advancing the lower-ranking Vice- Presidents. The remaining vacancy shall be filled, until the next election, by appointment by the Board of Directors of an ordained minister from the geographic ~~[area]~~ region which has the vacant Vice-President position.

### 3.06 Vacancies

- A. In the event of the death or resignation of the President, the First Vice-President shall immediately assume the duties of the Presidency and may elect to become full-time President until the next election. If he does not so elect, he shall serve as President on a part-time basis and shall prepare at the earliest practical time a plan for redistribution of any appropriate duties of the Presidency among the Vice-Presidents, appointed executives and others. The plan shall be presented to the Board of Directors and upon approval by the Board shall be effective until the office of the President is filled on a full-time basis or until changed by the Board, whichever shall occur first.
- B. If the President is unable to serve because of illness or disability, the responsibilities of his office shall be assumed by the First Vice- President as acting President until the President is able to resume the duties of his office. Where appropriate, these duties may be redistributed temporarily in any manner recommended by the acting President and approved by the Board of Directors. Disability of the President shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- C. ~~[In the event of a vacancy in the office of the First Vice-President, the vacancy shall be filled by the Second Vice- President. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Second Vice- President, the vacancy shall be filled by the Third Vice- President. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of the Third Vice- President, the vacancy shall be filled by the Fourth Vice- President. The resulting vacancy in the office of the Fourth Vice- President shall be filled, until the next election, by appointment by the Board of Directors of an ordained minister from the geographic area which has the vacant Vice-President position.]~~ A vacancy in any Vice-Presidency shall be filled by advancing the lower-ranking Vice- Presidents. The remaining vacancy shall be filled, until the next election, by appointment by the Board of Directors of an ordained minister from the geographic region which has the vacant Vice-President position.
- D. Vacancies on the Board of Directors, including the District Secretary, shall be filled until the next election by appointment by the Board of Directors, giving consideration to nominees from the last District Convention in accordance with Section 3.01 D.1.

- E. Vacancies in the offices of Circuit Visitor shall be filled by the President, giving consideration to the nominations made prior to the last Convention, in accordance with Section 3.01 E.
- F. ~~[-Vacancies on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the Nominating Committee, provided that the candidate meets the requirement of ordained minister, commissioned minister and lay representation, in accordance with Section 3.01.A.4.-]~~ Vacancies on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors. First consideration shall be given to the pool of nominees from the last Convention.

## ARTICLE IV: DISTRICT CONVENTION

### 4.01 Convention Organization

- A. The District shall hold a convention every three years, in the year preceding the year in which the Synod meets in Convention.
- B. Prior to the Convention, the President, after consultation with the Vice-Presidents, shall appoint:
  - 1. A Convention Arrangements Chairman and Committee to assist the District Staff in the arrangements for the District Convention;
  - 2. Floor Committees to consider overtures and submit recommendations to the Convention;
  - 3. A Registration and Credentials Committee;
  - 4. An Elections Committee to make all necessary arrangements for elections, and to conduct and supervise them;
  - 5. A Mileage Equalization Committee; and,
  - 6. Any other committees deemed necessary.

**C. Committee Chairmen shall be appointed by the President. Committee members shall include laity, commissioned ministers, or pastors.**

### 4.02 Representation and Voting Procedure

Each congregation of the District (a multiple-congregation parish being considered a unit) shall be represented by one ordained minister called by the congregation and one elected lay delegate. An interim ordained minister whose name is listed on the Synod's official roster of Ordained Ministers may serve as a voting ordained minister, provided that he has been officially called by the congregation and installed. A multiple-congregation parish shall elect one lay delegate who shall represent the congregations of the parish. **Congregations of a multiple-congregation parish other than the one sending the voting lay delegate may send advisory lay delegates.** The vote at any Convention shall be restricted to the designated voting ordained ministers and the duly elected lay delegates of the congregations. **To be entitled to vote, ordained ministers and lay delegates shall return the proper credentials provided by the Secretary and signed by two of the congregation's officers, either by mailing them to the District office at a date determined by the district or by presenting them to the Secretary at the opening of the convention.**



#### **4.03 Reports and Overtures**

- A. An official notice by the President shall be given to the membership of the District with regard to the deadline for submitting reports and overtures for inclusion in the District Convention Workbook at least [ ~~five~~ ] six months prior to the Convention.
- B. All Convention reports and overtures shall be submitted for inclusion in the District Convention Workbook at least [ ~~three~~ ] four months prior to the Convention.
- C. A copy of the Convention Workbook shall be sent to all congregations, ordained ministers and commissioned ministers, lay delegates and alternates at least one month prior to the Convention.
- D. Disposition of overtures received after the printing deadline, and prior to the opening of the Convention, shall be made by a committee consisting of the President, First Vice-President, and Secretary.

#### **4.04 Convention Regulations**

District Conventions shall be governed by the applicable Bylaws of the Synod, and also by such specific article governing Convention procedure as may be defined in these Bylaws and the District Handbook of Operations. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern The Rocky Mountain District as parliamentary authority in all cases to which they are applicable and consistent with these Bylaws.

#### **4.05 Convention Expenses**

- A. In order to defray the expected expenses of the District Convention, the Board of Directors shall determine registration fees, and an assessment for equalization of expenses and travel on congregations based on communicant membership. The Board of Directors shall notify the District congregations of said fees and assessments by November 1st prior to the Convention to facilitate their inclusion into the congregational budgets.
- B. Transportation, housing, meals and miscellaneous expenses of official guests and staff asked to serve at the Convention shall be borne by the District.
- C. Each congregation shall deliver its fees and assessment to the District Treasurer no later than the date of registration for the Convention, whether or not the congregation is represented. The host congregation, if any, shall be exempted from this assessment.

- D. For the purpose of equalization of mileage the following shall be the guide for reimbursement of those coming to the Convention:
1. Attendees eligible for reimbursement shall include pastoral and lay delegates, all non-voting ordained ministers who are members of the Synod ~~[-and who have been called to serve within-]~~ and of the District, and all commissioned ministers who are members of the Synod ~~[-and who have been called to serve within-]~~ and of the District.
  2. An attendee traveling by train, bus or plane shall be reimbursed his actual fare. An attendee traveling by car shall be reimbursed by the mileage rate permitted by the latest Internal Revenue Service guide. The Mileage Committee may be permitted to establish a mileage deductible if deemed appropriate. (Attendees are encouraged to practice good stewardship by car pooling whenever practical.)
  3. Those coming from great distances may file claims for additional funds to cover the extra expenses of lodging and meals and secondary transportation on the trip.

#### 4.06 Quorum

A quorum shall require one-third (1/3) of the member congregations represented by at least one voting delegate.

## ARTICLE V: CONFERENCES, FORUMS AND CONVOCATIONS

### 5.01 District Conferences for Professional Church Workers

#### A. Official Conferences

##### 1. District Pastors Conference:

A conference for all Ordained Ministers in the District shall be held annually.

##### 2. ~~[-Commissioned Ministers-]~~ Professional Educators Conference:

A conference for all ~~[-Commissioned Ministers-]~~ educators serving in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod schools/congregations of the District shall be held annually. This conference may also include workers serving district congregations who are not on the roster of the Synod. A major portion of the conference shall emphasize the teaching ministry in LCMS congregations.

#### B. Other Conferences

##### ~~[-1. District Directors of Christian Education Conference:~~

~~A conference of all (a) Commissioned Ministers serving as Directors of Christian Education and (b) all non-rostered persons employed as Directors of Christian Education in the District shall be held in even numbered years.-]~~

##### ~~[-2.-]~~ 1. District-wide Day School Principals Conference:

A conference of all Day School Principals shall be held once each year.

##### ~~[-3.-]~~ 2. Circuit Pastors Conference:

Each Circuit Visitor shall ~~[-conduct-]~~ provide a conference for all the ordained ministers in his Circuit at least once a year. These conferences may be held jointly with other circuits. A conference of a Circuit's ordained ministers is not an official conference of the Synod authorized to submit overtures.

##### ~~[-4.-]~~ 3. Other meetings are encouraged to consider matters of doctrine, exegesis, and practical theology, and may be used for promotion of the basic activities of the church.

##### [4.] Other official conferences for all ordained ministers and

commissioned ministers may meet in major sections. The geographical boundaries of such sections may be those of the District's geographic regions described in these Bylaws or may be those of not more than five sections established by the District in convention. Such sectional conferences may adopt and submit overtures to the Synod and the District Conventions.

C. General regulations

1. All conferences shall be governed by the regulations stated in the Synod's Bylaws.
2. Attendance at official conferences is obligatory. ~~[-Excuses for unavoidable absences shall be submitted by the absentees to the Excuse Committee of the conference involved.-]~~
3. Official Conference Expense:

Traveling expenses for official conferences shall be equalized. Equalization expenses shall be borne by the congregations of the church workers involved in the official conferences. Housing of retired ordained ministers, commissioned ministers and teachers living within and holding membership in the District shall be borne by the District for attendance at District conferences.

4. Unofficial Conference Expense:

Travel, meals and housing expenses for unofficial conferences shall be borne by the individuals attending unless the congregations have agreed to reimburse such expenses.

**5.02 Circuit Forums**

A. Representation

Each congregation or multi-congregation parish shall be represented at the Circuit Forum by one ordained minister who is not serving in an assisting capacity and one lay member designated by the congregation or multi-congregation parish, each representative having one vote. The ordained minister of a multiple-congregation parish shall have only one vote. A congregation in a multi-congregation parish not supplying a lay voting delegate may be represented by an advisory lay delegate. The circuit may request additional non-voting representation from the congregations, depending on the Forum's adopted objectives.

## B Functions

The Circuit Forum shall meet triennially and is encouraged to meet at least twice a year, performing the following functions:

1. To study the Scriptures and the Confessions in order to promote an evangelical spirit in our walking together;
2. To develop and adopt within existing policies of the District complementary and sometimes joint plans for mission outreach in the Circuit area;
3. To devise and develop programs and services relevant to the needs of Circuit congregations, lay leaders, commissioned ministers and ordained ministers;
4. To receive and respond as appropriate to advice, guidance, resolutions and programs in other sections of the Synod as such may be addressed to it from other Circuits, the District and the Synod;
5. To serve as a setting to review, evaluate and implement programs, plans and long-range directions of the District and the Synod;
6. To elect triennially as an electoral Circuit (may consist of either one or two adjacent visitation circuits) the ordained minister and lay delegate and their alternates to the general Convention of the Synod according to the regulations of the Synod. The delegates shall, upon his or her election, serve through the triennium following the next convention as an advisory member of the Circuit Forum(s);
7. The circuit forum may also participate in the triennial process of suggesting, developing, and attaining the Synod's priorities and goals.
8. To submit overtures to the Synod and the District Conventions.

### 5.03 Circuit Convocations

Circuits may arrange for a Circuit Convocation, which is a larger gathering of members from Circuit congregations held during a year in which there is no Synod or District Convention. Its purpose is to provide a setting in which congregational members may know of and celebrate the ministry pursued by each congregation, may review and discuss the work of the Circuit Forum, and may receive information on various phases of the work pursued through Districts and the Synod. As such, its emphasis should be on inspiration, education and motivation.

## ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

### 6.01 Amendments to These Bylaws

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made provided they are:

1. approved in advance by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) who will ascertain whether the proposed amendments are in harmony with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod;
2. presented in writing to the congregations of the District at least thirty (30) days prior to the time that they are presented for vote;
3. considered separately and acted upon; and,
4. ~~[-passed-]~~ **adopted** by a majority vote at a District Convention; **or, when necessitated by amendments to the Synod Constitution or Bylaws or otherwise expressly directed by a resolution of the Synod in convention, if adopted by a two-thirds majority of the district board of directors.**

All amendments to the Bylaws are effective immediately after their adoption ~~[-by the Convention-]~~; unless the amended Bylaw, or the enabling resolution calls for a specific implementation date. Floor amendments adopted at the District Convention become effective upon CCM approval.