

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

SECTION IV

FLOOR COMMITTEES

Nominating Committee

Floor Committee # 1

To The Ends Of The Earth: Walking Together In Mission & Ministry

Floor Committee # 2

To The Ends Of The Earth: Walking Together In District & Synod

2025-1-01 To Establish a Mission Effort in Utah for the Next Triennium

Whereas, the congregations and schools in Utah are working wholeheartedly to faithfully proclaim the Gospel in a region of our District where the proclamation of the Truth faces more opposition than in most areas of our country, and

Whereas, pastors, teachers and laity alike identify the mission field in Utah as unique and of critical importance, and

Whereas, the Rocky Mountain District has a history of various efforts to support, encourage and equip the congregations and workers in Utah for the mission field, and

Whereas, the Utah Circuit continues to seek ways to take the Gospel message into their community in order to win souls for Christ in as much as it up to them, and

Whereas, this mission field is at our "front door" and we are blessed to have established congregations, faithful pastors and teachers, and Godly laity established in the field who labor with diminishing resources, and

Whereas, the Lord has called us to proclaim His Gospel to all nations, and

Whereas, the Mormon population suffers without the Gospel of Jesus Christ, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District adopt the Mission Effort in Utah as our mission effort for the triennium 2025-2028, concluding with the Convention of 2028, and be it further resolved that the Rocky Mountain congregations collectively set a goal of raising 1 Million Dollars over the 2025-2028 triennium, and be it further

Resolved, that the District President and Board of Directors establish a team to work with the Utah Circuit to develop goals and strategies for this mission work; create an effective campaign for raising funds; oversee the financial campaign.

Submitted by:
The Rocky Mountain Board of Directors

OVERTURES

2025-1-02 To Utilize Regional Strategic Teams to assist Planting Congregations in the Rocky Mountain District

Whereas; The Lord Jesus Christ has given the command to be his witnesses beginning in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8); and

Whereas; The Lord “desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth,” (1 Timothy 2:4) and that this saving faith comes “from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ,” (Romans 10:17); and,

Whereas; Our confessions say concerning Ministry in the Church, “So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the gospel and administering the sacraments was instituted. For through the Word and the sacraments as through instruments the Holy Spirit is given, who effects faith where and when it pleases God in those who hear the gospel,” (The Augsburg Confession— Article V—Concerning Ministry in the Church, Kolb Wengert); and,

Whereas; Congregations are a gathering of God’s people around the Word and sacraments and subscribe to the Book of Concord 1580 because it is in agreement with this one true Word of God; and,

Whereas; The Gospel Gap Paradigm has served its purpose, and the Rocky Mountain District (RMD) should continue to build on the emphasis of circuit and regional cooperation for the purpose of planting congregations; and

Whereas; The unique natures within each region in the district shape the planting of congregations, the RMD must strive for a model that will help honor that uniqueness and lead to a greater success of sustainable new congregations; and

Whereas; The district desires to be good managers of the talents the Lord has placed under its stewardship and to support the work of the proclamation of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments in the RMD; therefore, be it

Resolved; To implement a regional strategic team in the four regions of the RMD for the purpose of encouraging, facilitating, networking and overseeing the planting of congregations in the area. The goal of regional strategic teams is to identify the area’s opportunities for mission, prioritize them, and identify an entity (e.g., congregation, district, RSO, etc.) to help establish a local planting team; be it finally

Resolved; That the corresponding regional vice president at the direction of the DP and BoD will help facilitate these regional strategic teams. With direction from the district president, these strategic teams will include the regional VP and representatives from the area congregation(s) including Circuit Visitors that desire to serve on the regional strategic teams.

Submitted by:
The Rocky Mountain Board of Directors

OVERTURES

1 2025-1-03

TO RETIRE THE CIRCUIT-BASED MISSION MODEL (GOSPEL GAP PARADIGM)

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6 Whereas, The Lord Jesus Christ has given the command to be his witnesses beginning in Jerusalem
7 and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8); and

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9 Whereas, The Rocky Mountain District adopted a Circuit-based mission model (the Gospel Gap
10 Paradigm) at the 2012 convention; and,

11 Whereas, This Circuit-based mission model has served well with the finite resources of our district;
12 and,
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15 Whereas, This Circuit-based mission model has served well to encourage a highly relational approach
16 to mission that required networking between congregations in mission efforts; and,
17

18 Whereas, The use of this model has also revealed the ecclesial and financial weaknesses of circuits
19 (i.e., the inability to Call workers, no bank account, etc.); and,
20

21 Whereas, The Circuit-based mission model has drifted from its intent to begin new Word and
22 Sacrament ministries in the Rocky Mountain District; therefore, be it
23

24 Resolved, That the Circuit-based mission model (GGP) be retired by the Rocky Mountain District;
25 and be it further
26

27 Resolved, That future mission efforts in the Rocky Mountain District strive to retain the highly
28 relational nature of the Circuit-based mission model; and be it further
29

30 Resolved, That future mission efforts in the Rocky Mountain District provide stronger support and
31 clearer parameters from the district; and be it further
32

33 Resolved, That existing GGP projects are eligible to receive funding from the district through the
34 current fiscal year ending January 31, 2026; and be it finally
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37 Resolved, That the convention stands and sings the doxology to the Lord to praise Him for the work
38 accomplished in the district through the Gospel Gap Paradigm.
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41 Submitted by:
42 The Rocky Mountain Board of Directors
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OVERTURES

2025-1-04 To Support Rural Congregations Through District Mission Resources

WHEREAS, small rural congregations are often pivotal centers of Gospel outreach, yet face unique challenges due to declining populations, limited resources, and reduced pastoral staffing; and

WHEREAS, the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) calls for making disciples of all nations, which includes sustaining the faithful presence of Word and Sacrament ministry in rural areas as part of Christ's mission; and

WHEREAS, many rural congregations in our Synod serve as beacons of faith in their communities (such as Grace Lutheran Church in Moab, Utah), providing both spiritual care and critical support in times of need, even as they struggle to maintain facilities, support their pastors, and reach out to their communities effectively; and

WHEREAS, our Synod in Convention has emphasized 7 Mission priorities of the LCMS and the first priority is: to "plant, sustain, and revitalize Lutheran churches." therefore be it

Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District establish a specific focus on supporting small, rural congregations through district mission resources, which may include financial grants, strategic planning, outreach initiatives, or providing pastoral support; and be it further

Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District consider the allocation of district mission resources to assist with outreach programs, youth ministry, and evangelism initiatives in rural congregations; and be it further

Resolved, that the district assess ways to offer greater pastoral support, including providing interim pastors, bi-vocational pastoral options, or sharing pastoral services with neighboring congregations; and be it finally

Resolved, that this overture be submitted to the Rocky Mountain District Convention and that the district commit to prayerfully considering raising \$250,000 over the next triennium to establish an endowment for Grace Lutheran Church in Moab, Utah to support the viability, stability and growth of this rural congregation, to the glory of God and the building up of His Church.

Submitted by the Four Corners Circuit

OVERTURES

2025-1-05

2025 Rocky Mountain District Convention

An Overture

To Study and Implement Hybrid Electronic and /In Person Pastoral Ministry to Small Congregations at Risk of Closing

WHEREAS, baptized membership in many congregations of the Rocky Mountain District has declined to the point that they are no longer able to call and support a fulltime pastor due to long standing and continuing cultural and demographic trends; and

WHEREAS, many congregations in areas including urban, rural and small towns, either have or are contemplating closing, either immediately or in the near future; and

WHEREAS, when some congregations join together as traditional dual and triple parishes they are still unable to support a full-time pastor, and end up closing anyway; and

WHEREAS, when congregations close some members are left with no nearby confessional Lutheran congregation to affiliate with; and

WHEREAS, the closing of a congregation means the loss of a confessional Lutheran witness in that place; and

WHEREAS, Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God," □ *John 3:5*); and

WHEREAS, Jesus said, 'For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them," (*Matthew 18:20*); and

WHEREAS, Jesus said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day," (*John 6:53-54*), and

WHEREAS, Jesus said, 'I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing," (*John 15:5*); and

WHEREAS, Scripture says, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near," (*Hebrews 10:24-25*); and

WHEREAS, closing churches in areas where there is no other Confessional Lutheran congregation can discourage Lutheran Christians from seeking baptism for children and adult converts, gathering in the name of Jesus, receiving the sacrament of the altar, hearing God's word that they might bear fruit and coming together to encourage one another; and

WHEREAS, there are technologies available that can connect confessional Lutherans in their homes, church buildings, and other facilities, so they can continue meeting under the care of a pastor, and

WHEREAS, Bible classes, confessional studies, the Divine Service and other events can be livestreamed almost anywhere in the world; and

Continued on page 7

68 WHEREAS, this technology has become relatively inexpensive and accessible, utilizing the
69 internet, laptops, video cameras, microphones and large screen television
70 monitors, thus allowing several congregations to participate at the same time
71 though separated by many miles and affording them opportunity to host the
72 pastor on a rotating basis; and according to Peter, "you are a chosen race, a
73 royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may
74 proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous
75 light," (*I Peter 1:29*); and according to Peter, "you are a chosen race, a royal
76 priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim
77 the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light," (*I*
78 *Peter 1:29*); and
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82 WHEREAS, the priesthood of believers belongs to the whole church and not just pastors, such
83 that trained laymen can call on the sick, the shut-in and visitors, conduct Bible and
84 confirmation classes, maintain buildings, provide hospitality, do social ministry in
85 the name of Jesus, etc.; and
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89 WHEREAS, a called, visiting pastor can teach laymen how to do these things thus encouraging
90 congregation members to care for one another in tangible ways; and
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92 WHEREAS, congregations can be encouraged to learn about, accept and install technologies
93 that allow them to continue to be the church even without a pastor in residence,
94 but with a called pastor none-the-less who is shared by several churches as he
95 ministers to the people both on-line and in person on a rotational basis; therefore
96 be it
97

98 *Resolved*, that the Rocky Mountain District meeting in convention direct the District President
99 to appoint a committee of laymen and pastors to investigate, study, and recommend
100 ways of implementing hybrid electronic and in-person ministry by called pastors to
101 small churches that might otherwise close, and be it further
102

103 *Resolved*, that this committee identify clusters of three or more congregations that could be
104 served through such a hybrid ministry and then determine if those
105 congregations would be willing to become models for such hybrid ministry and
106 also jointly call a pastor skilled in using these technologies, and be it finally
107
108

109 *Resolved*, that the Rocky Mountain District recognize this as a mission opportunity and
110 approve funding support for its implementation in at least one cluster of willing
111 congregations for a period of three years, with a greater portion of the funding
112 being provided by the cluster of congregations served.
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116 **Kenneth Krusemark**

117 President, Immanuel Lutheran Church Las Vegas, New Mexico
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120 **Josephine Cruz**

121 Secretary, Immanuel Lutheran Church Las Vegas, New Mexico

OVERTURES

2025-1-06 To Support Rural Congregations Through District Mission Resources

WHEREAS, small rural congregations are often pivotal centers of Gospel outreach, yet face unique challenges due to declining populations, limited resources, and reduced pastoral staffing; and

WHEREAS, the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) calls for making disciples of all nations, which includes sustaining the faithful presence of Word and Sacrament ministry in rural areas as part of Christ's mission; and

WHEREAS, many rural congregations in our Synod serve as beacons of faith in their communities (such as Grace Lutheran Church in Moab, Utah), providing both spiritual care and critical support in times of need, even as they struggle to maintain facilities, support their pastors, and reach out to their communities effectively; and

WHEREAS, our Synod in Convention has emphasized 7 Mission priorities of the LCMS and the first priority is: to "plant, sustain, and revitalize Lutheran churches." therefore be it

Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District establish a specific focus on supporting small, rural congregations through district mission resources, which may include financial grants, strategic planning, outreach initiatives, or providing pastoral support; and be it further

Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District consider the allocation of district mission resources to assist with outreach programs, youth ministry, and evangelism initiatives in rural congregations; and be it further

Resolved, that the district assess ways to offer greater pastoral support, including providing interim pastors, bi-vocational pastoral options, or sharing pastoral services with neighboring congregations; and be it finally

Resolved, that this overture be submitted to the Rocky Mountain District Convention and that the district commit to prayerfully considering raising \$250,000 over the next triennium to establish an endowment for Grace Lutheran Church in Moab, Utah to support the viability, stability and growth of this rural congregation, to the glory of God and the building up of His Church.

Submitted by the Four Corners Circuit

OVERTURES

2025-1-07 To Study and Implement Hybrid Electronic and In-Person Pastoral Ministry to Small Congregations at Risk of Closing

Whereas baptized membership in many congregations of the Rocky Mountain District has declined to the point that they are no longer able to call and support a fulltime pastor due to long standing and continuing cultural and demographic trends, and

Whereas many congregations in areas including urban, rural and small towns, either have or are contemplating closing, either immediately or in the near future, and

Whereas when some congregations join together as traditional dual and triple parishes they are still unable to support a full-time pastor, and end up closing anyway, and

Whereas when congregations close some members are left with no nearby confessional Lutheran congregation to affiliate with, and

Whereas the closing of a congregation means the loss of a confessional Lutheran witness in that place, and

Whereas Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God," (*John 3:5*) and

Whereas Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them," (*Matthew 18:20*) and

Whereas Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day," (*John 6:53-54*) and

Whereas Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing," (*John 15:5*) and

Whereas Scripture says, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near," (*Hebrews 10:24-25*) and

Whereas closing churches in areas where there is no other Confessional Lutheran congregation can discourage Lutheran Christians from seeking baptism for children and adult converts, gathering in the name of Jesus, receiving the sacrament of the altar, hearing God's word that they might bear fruit, and coming together to encourage one another, and

Whereas there are technologies available that can connect confessional Lutherans in their homes, church buildings, and other facilities, so they can continue meeting under the care of a pastor, and

Whereas Bible classes, confessional studies, the Divine Service and other events can be livestreamed almost anywhere in the world, and

Whereas this technology has become relatively inexpensive and accessible, utilizing the internet, laptops, video cameras, microphones and large screen television monitors, thus allowing several congregations to participate at the same time though separated by many miles and affording them opportunity to host the pastor on a rotating basis, and

Whereas according to Peter, "you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light," (*1 Peter 1:29*) and

Whereas the priesthood of believers belongs to the whole church and not just pastors, such that trained laymen can call on the sick, the shut-in and visitors, conduct Bible and confirmation classes, maintain buildings, provide hospitality, do social ministry in the name of Jesus, etc., and

Whereas a called, visiting pastor can teach laymen how to do these things thus encouraging congregation members to care for one another in tangible ways, and

Continued ...

OVERTURES

2025-1-07 Continued...

63 **Whereas** a called, visiting pastor can teach laymen how to do these things thus encouraging
64 congregation members to care for one another in tangible ways, and

65
66 **Whereas** congregations can be encouraged to learn about, accept and install technologies that
67 allow them to continue to be the church even without a pastor in residence, but with a called
68 pastor none-the-less who is shared by several churches as he ministers to the people both on-line
69 and in person on a rotational basis, therefore

70
71 **Be it resolved** that the Rocky Mountain District meeting in convention direct the District President
72 to appoint a committee of laymen and pastors to investigate, study, and recommend ways of
73 Implementing hybrid electronic and in-person ministry by called pastors to small churches that
74 might otherwise close, and

75
76 **Be it further resolved** that this committee identify clusters of three or more congregations that
77 could be served through such a hybrid ministry and then determine if those congregations would
78 be willing to become models for such hybrid ministry and also jointly call a pastor skilled in using
79 these technologies, and

80
81 **Be it finally resolved** that the Rocky Mountain District recognize this as a mission opportunity
82 and approve funding support for its implementation in at least one cluster of willing congregations
83 for a period of three years, with a greater portion of the funding being provided by the cluster of
84 congregations served.

85
86 **Rev. Donald Neidigk**
87 **Sandia South, Circuit Visitor**

Rev. Douglas Escue
Sandia North, Circuit Visitor

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OVERTURES

2025-1-08

2025 Rocky Mountain District Convention

An Overture

To Study and Implement Hybrid Electronic and In-Person Pastoral Ministry to Small Congregations at Risk of Closing

WHEREAS, baptized membership in many congregations of the Rocky Mountain District has declined to the point that they are no longer able to call and support a fulltime pastor due to long standing and continuing cultural and demographic trends; and

WHEREAS, many congregations in areas including urban, rural and small towns, either have or are contemplating closing, either immediately or in the near future; and

WHEREAS, when some congregations join together as traditional dual and triple parishes they are still unable to support a full-time pastor, and end up closing anyway; and

WHEREAS, when congregations close some members are left with no nearby confessional Lutheran congregation to affiliate with; and

WHEREAS, the closing of a congregation means the loss of a confessional Lutheran witness in that place; and

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God," (*John 3:5*); and

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them," (*Matthew 18:20*); and

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day," (*John 6:53-54*), and

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing," (*John 15:5*); and

WHEREAS, Scripture says, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near," (*Hebrews 10:24-25*); and

WHEREAS, closing churches in areas where there is no other Confessional Lutheran congregation can discourage Lutheran Christians from seeking baptism for children and adult converts, gathering in the name of Jesus, receiving the sacrament of the altar, hearing God's word that they might bear fruit, and coming together to encourage one another; and

WHEREAS, there are technologies available that can connect confessional Lutherans in their homes, church buildings, and other facilities, so they can continue meeting under the care of a pastor, and

WHEREAS, Bible classes, confessional studies, the Divine Service and other events can be livestreamed almost anywhere in the world; and

WHEREAS, this technology has become relatively inexpensive and accessible, utilizing the internet, laptops, video cameras, microphones and large screen television monitors, thus allowing several congregations to participate at the same time though separated by many miles and affording them opportunity to host the pastor on a rotating basis; and according to Peter, "you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light," (*1 Peter 1:29*); and

WHEREAS, the priesthood of believers belongs to the whole church and not just pastors, such that trained laymen can call on the sick, the shut-in and visitors, conduct Bible and confirmation classes, maintain buildings, provide hospitality, do social ministry in the name of Jesus, etc.; and

WHEREAS, a called, visiting pastor can teach laymen how to do these things thus encouraging congregation members to care for one another in tangible ways; and

WHEREAS, congregations can be encouraged to learn about, accept and install technologies that allow them to continue to be the church even without a pastor in residence, but with a called pastor none-the-less who is shared by several churches as he ministers to the people both on-line and in person on a rotational basis; therefore be it

Continued ...

OVERTURES

2025-1-08 Continued...

69 *Resolved*, that the Rocky Mountain District meeting in convention direct the District President to
70 appoint a committee of laymen and pastors to investigate, study, and recommend ways of
71 implementing hybrid electronic and in-person ministry by called pastors to small churches that
72 might otherwise close, and be it further

73
74 *Resolved*, that this committee identify clusters of three or more congregations that could be served
75 through such a hybrid ministry and then determine if those congregations would be willing to
76 become models for such hybrid ministry and also jointly call a pastor skilled in using these
77 technologies, and be it finally

78
79 *Resolved*, that the Rocky Mountain District recognize this as a mission opportunity and approve
80 funding support for its implementation in at least one cluster of willing congregations for a period
81 of three years, with a greater portion of the funding being provided by the cluster of congregations
82 served.

83
84 **Rev. Donald Neidigk 1/12/2025**
85 Sandia South, Circuit Visitor

Ron McCormick 1/12/2025
President, Christ the King Lutheran Church
Los Lunas, New Mexico

1 2025-2-01 To Uphold the Scriptural Teaching of "Generations/Lineages";
2 To Reject the Modernistic Teaching of "Races"

3
4 Whereas, The Apostle Peter speaks of the Church as "a chosen generation" (1 Peter 2:9: "But you are
5 a chosen generation [genos], a royal priesthood, a holy nation ..." [NKJV, 1979; cf. KJV 1611]); and

6
7 Whereas, several modern translations speak of the Church not as a "chosen generation" but as "a
8 chosen race" (1 Peter 2:9: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation ..." [ESV, 2001;
9 NASB, 1995]); and

10
11 Whereas, the Apostle Peter is using the language of the Prophet Isaiah, where Isaiah gives the promise
12 of "my chosen people [LXX, genos mou to eklekton; MT, yryxb ym[]" (Is. 43:20), such that with this
13 word Isaiah is referring not to racial categories as used in modernism ("modernism" in the sense of post
14 -enlightenment ideology) to speak of several races divided from one another, but rather speaks of the
15 chosen people of God;

16
17 Whereas, the Greek word genos is used to translate the Hebrew word m[(e.g., Is. 43:20, et al) which
18 references not "races" (in the modernistic sense) but "people," the word Hebrew word m[even set
19 alongside [rz , meaning "seed" or "lineage" (e.g., Jer. 29:32, et al), and to translate the Hebrew ywg
20 (e.g., Jer. 31:36, et al), which, again, cannot mean "races" in the modernistic sense, but "nations"; and

21
22 Whereas, the prophets use the language of "the people/my people" (or "lineage" or "generations") to
23 reference not "races" in the modernistic sense, so that the prophets are proclaiming that the chosen
24 lineage includes all those brought into the Promise of the Christ—i.e., the lineage of Abraham (as also
25 the lineage of the promise to Adam and Eve, Gen. 3:15 and of the promise to Noah, Gen. 9), with the
26 people of promise including all those from many other families and tribes whom the Lord gathered into
27 the lineage of Israel (e.g., the Ruth the Moabite, Rahab the Canaanite, et al); and

28
29 Whereas, the word "race" prior to modernism refers to the human race (singular), and not to
30 "races" (plural)—where races are be set against each other, such that O.E.D. identifies the first usages
31 of "races" in the modernistic sense (to denote not the human race descended from Adam and Eve, but
32 several races divided from each other within the human race) to the mid-1700s and later; and

33
34 Whereas, as those of the Church, the chosen generation/genos (1 Peter 2:9), we are given to proclaim
35 not the words of modernistic ideology (such as doctrine of "races" often taught in our public schools and
36 in much political rhetoric), but rather the words of the Prophets and Apostles which proclaim Jesus
37 Christ crucified for all nations/eqnh; therefore be it

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39 Resolved, that we reject modernism's doctrine of several "races" by which the human race is divided
40 into different typological categories, categories wholly unknown to the Prophets and Apostles; and be it
41 further

42
43 Resolved, that we reject any teaching resulting from or based upon this modernistic category of
44 race, including any teaching of white-supremacy, black-supremacy, antisemitism, race division or
45 segregation, or any other form of racism, and be it further

46
47 Resolved, that we recognize and affirm our Lord's promise to the Church that we are a "chosen lineage"
48 or "chosen generation" (1 Pet. 2:9), which is the lineage of all those called into the Promise, and be it
49 further

50
51 Resolved, that we rejoice that as the Church, the lineage of the promise, we are given to "proclaim the
52 excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Pet. 2:9), a proclamation
53 to be proclaimed to all nations (Matt. 28), and be it further

54
55 Resolved, that we affirm that any who teach or promote (whether in public or in private, including all
56 forms of social media) any form of racism, antisemitism, or race-supremacy or division, are to be
57 denounced by the Church for this divisive teaching and called to repentance with the hope and the
58 prayer that the Lord restores them to the Church, the chosen lineage of the promise, and be it finally

59
60 Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District in convention memorialize the Synod to affirm that any
61 who teach or promote (whether in public or in private, including all forms of social media) any form of
62 racism, antisemitism, or race-supremacy or division, are to be denounced by the Church for this divisive
63 teaching and called to repentance with the hope and the prayer that the Lord restores them to the
64 Church, the chosen lineage of the promise.

65
Rev. Larry McGurer
Submitted by Denver Northwest Circuit

OVERTURES

2025-2-02

To Uphold the Scriptural Teaching of "Generations/Lineages"; To Reject the Modernistic Teaching of "Races"

WHEREAS, The Apostle Peter speaks of the Church as "a chosen generation" (1 Peter 2:9: "But you are a chosen generation [ἐκλεκτοί], a royal priesthood, a holy nation ..." [NKJV, 1979; cf. KJV 1611]); and

WHEREAS, several modern translations speak of the Church not as a "chosen generation" but as "a chosen race" (1 Peter 2:9: "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation ..." [ESV, 2001; NASB, 1995]); and

WHEREAS, , the Apostle Peter is using the language of the Prophet Isaiah, where Isaiah gives the promise of "my chosen people [LXX, τὸ γένος μου τὸ ἐκλεκτόν; MT, "עַמִּי בְּחִירִי (Is. 43:20), such that with this word Isaiah is referring not to racial categories as used in modernism ("modernism" in the sense of post-enlightenment ideology, the mid-1700s and later) to speak of several races divided from one another, but rather speaks of the chosen people of God; and

WHEREAS, the Greek word ἐκλεκτοί is used to translate the Hebrew word) נַעַם e.g., Is. 43:20, et al) which references not "races" (in the modernistic sense) but "people," and the Hebrew word מְזֵרָע meaning "seed" or "lineage" (e.g., Jer. 29:32, et al), and to translate the Hebrew word) גּוֹי e.g., Jer. 31:36, et al), which, again, cannot mean "races" in the modernistic sense, but "nations"; and

WHEREAS, , the prophets use the language of "the people/my people" (or "lineage" or "generations") to reference not "races" in the modernistic sense, so that the prophets are proclaiming that the chosen lineage includes all those brought into the Promise of the Christ—i.e., the lineage of Abraham (as also the lineage of the promise to Adam and Eve, Gen. 3:15 and of the promise to Noah, Gen. 9), with the people of promise including all those from many other families and tribes whom the Lord gathered into the lineage of Israel (e.g., the Ruth the Moabite, Rahab the Canaanite, et al); and

WHEREAS, the word "race" prior to modernism refers to the human race (singular), and not to "races" (plural)—where races are be set against each other, such that O.E.D. (Oxford English Dictionary) identifies the first usages of "races" in the modernistic sense (to denote not the human race descended from Adam and Eve, but several races divided from each other within the human race) to the mid-1700s and later; and

WHEREAS, as those of the Church, the chosen generation/ ἐκλεκτοί (1 Peter 2:9), we are given to proclaim not the words of modernistic ideology but rather the words of the Prophets and Apostles which proclaim Jesus Christ crucified for all nations/ἐκ πανθ; therefore be it

Resolved, that we reject modernism's doctrine of several "races" by which the human race is divided into different typological categories, categories wholly unknown to the Prophets and Apostles; and be it further

Resolved, that we reject any teaching resulting from or based upon this modernistic category of race, including any teaching of race-supremacy, antisemitism, race division or segregation, or any other form of racism; and be it further

Resolved, that we recognize and affirm our Lord's promise to the Church that we are a "chosen lineage" or "chosen generation" (1 Pet. 2:9), which is the lineage of all those called into the Promise; and be it further

Resolved, that we rejoice that as the Church, the lineage of the promise, we are given to "proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Pet. 2:9), a proclamation to be proclaimed to all nations (Matt. 28); and be it further

Resolved, that we affirm that any who teach or promote (whether in public or in private, including all forms of social media) any form of racism, antisemitism, or race-supremacy or division, are to be denounced by the Church for this divisive teaching and called to repentance with the hope and the prayer that the Lord restores them to the Church, the chosen lineage of the promise; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District in convention memorialize the Synod to affirm that any who teach or promote (whether in public or in private, including all forms of social media) any form of racism, antisemitism, or race-supremacy or division, are to be denounced by the Church for this divisive teaching and called to repentance with the hope and the prayer that the Lord restores them to the Church, the chosen lineage of the promise.

Rev. Andrew Cave, Rio Grande Circuit Visitor

Mr. Michael Kaiser

Submitted by the Rio Grande Circuit
El Paso, TX

OVERTURES

2025-2-03

To Amend Bylaw 3.03 Term of Office

Whereas, the current Bylaws of the Rocky Mountain District of the LCMS, in its latest revision adopted on 11/08/2022, limits the term of office for elected officers, elected boards, commissions, and committees of the district to 3 (3) year terms for a total of 9 years and

Whereas, the Synodical Bylaws do not have term limits for President, Regional Vice-President, Secretary, and members of the Board of Directors and

Whereas, to more closely align with the Synod, and

Whereas, Districts represent the Synod in their locale, and

Whereas, Overture 9-44, To Amend Bylaws regarding Permanency of District and Synod Presidents to Better Reflect Confessional Principles on Authority, and four other resolutions 9-40, 9-41, 9-42, 9-43, affecting term limits for President, Regional Vice-President, Secretary, and members of the Board of Directors failed to pass in the 2023 Synodical Convention held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and

Whereas, the President, Regional Vice-President, and Secretary are required by the Synodical Constitution to be ordained, and

Whereas, the number of pastors within the LCMS continue to decrease at an alarming rate each year, and

Whereas, it will become more and more difficult to find qualified men to fill these positions, therefor be it

Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District of the LCMS Bylaws be changed to remove all term limits for the following elected positions: President, Regional Vice-President, District Secretary, Board of Directors members, and Circuit Visitors; and be it finally

Resolved, that these changes upon approval of the Committee on Constitutional Matter of the LCMS be put into place immediately at the 2025 Rocky Mountain District Convention for the purpose of elections.

Rev. Dan Kletke
Circuit Visitor for Sangre de Cristo Circuit
of the Rocky Mountain District, LCMS

Rev. Nicolas Shults
Pastor, Bethany LCMS Pueblo &
Our Savior LCMS Pueblo West
Submitted by the Sangre de Cristo Circuit
of the Rocky Mountain District, LCMS

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Submitted by the Western Circuit of the Rocky Mountain District

2025-2-05

To Encourage the Rocky Mountain District to Seek Liturgical Unity through Circuit Level Discussions

WHEREAS, The synod in convention in 2016 appealed to LCMS Congregations, workers, and institutions within Christian freedom and for love's sake to retain a common order of Service for the Lord's Supper; and

WHEREAS, this has to be achieved at the local level, which would be at the level of the circuit; and

WHEREAS, This could be a salutary exercise so that each congregation would know the customs and ceremonies the other congregations in their circuit are using; therefore be it

Resolved, that the RMD in convention appeal to the congregations of the district for love's sake (Philemon 9) and by the mercies of God (Rom 12:1), when celebrating the Lord's Supper, regularly to use these basic components of the Order of Service (Ordo); to gather in the Triune name, confess our sins and receive absolution, sing the praises of the blessed Trinity, attend to the readings and the proclamation of God's Holy Word, confess our faith using the historic creeds, offer prayers for all people according to their needs including praying the Lord's Prayer, present our offerings, lift our hearts to God, give Him thanks and join with the angels, archangels and all the saints in their respective songs, celebrate the Lord's Supper with Christ's own words, rejoice in the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and then depart in God's peace and with His blessing to send us forth as His forgiven children and witnesses to His grace; and be it further

Resolved, that the RMD in convention appeal to the congregations of the district to rejoice in the freedom of instrumentation and style within a consistent framework of the order of service as listed above; and be it further

Resolved, that the RMD in convention appeal to the congregations and institutions of the district to reaffirm Synod's Constitution Art VI 4, in which we willingly agree to the "exclusive use of doctrinally pure agenda, hymnbooks, and catechisms in church and school" in all worship services, but to keep in mind "doctrinally pure" is not the same as "synodically approved,"; and be it further

Resolved, that the RMD in convention appeal to the circuits of the district to engage in full and open discussion in the next triennium of how this spirit of unity and freedom is put into practice in our walk together, and that the district praesidium would encourage the implementation of the spirit of unity and freedom expressed in this resolution and report back to the 2028 convention; and be it further

Resolved, that one of the three annual Circuit Visitor training sessions this triennium would invite a seminary faculty member to train the circuit visitors to lead such discussions in circuit gatherings, involving pastors and lay representatives, starting with the history of this discussion, what could be considered acceptable compromises, and how the congregations and institutions of their circuit in this discussion will benefit their own congregations and institutions and the Church at large; and be it finally,

Resolved, that the RMD Convention memorialize the synod in convention in 2026 to take up this goal, encouraging liturgical uniformity in our synod, circuit by circuit.

Submitted by Rocky Flats Circuit
Rocky Mountain District

OVERTURES

2025-2-06 To Encourage the Rocky Mountain District to Establish Informal Networks Between Young Singles Ministries so they can Organize Events

WHEREAS, Marriage is a desirable institution and the natural setting for the procreation of children; and

WHEREAS, Due to social forces, many young people are having trouble finding a godly spouse, and even good interpersonal relations, that may or may not develop into a lifelong relationship with a member of the opposite sex; and

WHEREAS, the Church will celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther and Katherine Von Bora's wedding on June 13, 2025; therefore, be it

Resolved that the Rocky Mountain District in convention encourage the congregations of the RMD on June 8 or June 15, 2025 to pray for young singles who seek a godly spouse by sending out an email to each congregation as a reminder on June 2nd; and be it finally

Resolved that the Rocky Mountain District would encourage an informal network be established between congregations with young singles, including campus ministries and contact congregations located near a school of higher education so the congregations of this network could organize events for the young singles in their area, and potentially invite those who are unchurched but experiencing the same difficulties to join them.

Submitted by Rocky Flats Circuit
Rocky Mountain District

OVERTURES

2025-2-07

To Encourage the Rocky Mountain District to Establish Three Networks of Campus Ministries

WHEREAS, Campus ministry is a vital component of the Church's ministry; and

WHEREAS, When students leave their home base they have lost the framework that had always kept them grounded; and

WHEREAS, Congregations bid their students goodbye upon graduation and pray earnestly that they will keep the faith, wishing that more could be done; and

WHEREAS, If students are aware of the campus ministry or contact congregation that will be providing them Word and Sacrament ministry before they get there, the chances of retaining them through their college career can be improved; and

WHEREAS, The contact information needs to be available not only once they are in school, but before they get there; and

WHEREAS, Regional events, which strengthen campus ministries, can be more easily facilitated if there were a network between congregations and campus ministries; and

WHEREAS, the RMD covers a large area, covering three states and one county in TX, and regional events would be better by state – CO, UT, and NM, including El Paso County TX; and

WHEREAS, The Front Range already has an informal council of students, representing several different universities; and

WHEREAS, Congregations near institutions of higher learning could benefit from those who are already in Campus Ministry in becoming a contact congregation or a member of the LCMS-U; therefore be it

Resolved, that the RMD in convention create three networks of pastors and church workers as defined in the seventh whereas, that would meet four times per year by video conference to share resources, plan out calendars, and seek to expand their outreach to other potential contact congregations.

Signature of Circuit Visitor

Submitted by Rocky Flats Circuit
Rocky Mountain District

OVERTURES

2025-2-08 To Support International Mission and Church Relations

WHEREAS, the Synod continues to face significant difficulties in retaining and recruiting international missionaries; and

WHEREAS, one of the main reasons for missionaries' end of service continues to be conflict in the field and conflict within the sending organization; and

WHEREAS, all international mission strategies and policies are determined by the Office of International Mission and the Board of International Mission, without necessarily consulting with deployed missionaries or the church partners they serve; and

WHEREAS, the Office of International Mission has the authority to terminate the service of any missionary without cause or notice, and missionaries have no right of appeal to executive decisions; and

WHEREAS, the overly burdensome bureaucracy of the Synod adversely affects the capacity of our deployed missionaries, and their freedom to proclaim the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, the constant conflicts within the Office of International Mission concerning strategy, policies and employment have an immeasurably adverse impact on the mission of the church and the relationship of the LCMS with her overseas partners; and

WHEREAS, the present system fails to support our deployed missionaries and overseas partners; fails to protect the mission of the Church; and fails to provide missionaries with due process for reconciliation, protection of their divine calls, and appeal against unjust or arbitrary dismissal; therefore be it

Resolved, that changes to the LCMS bylaws should be made, to the effect that:

1. A Mission District shall be added to the other districts of the LCMS, to include the ministries of the LCMS overseas, in place of the Office of International Mission.
2. The President or Bishop of the Mission District, as well as Regional vice-presidents, and circuit visitors should be elected as in other districts, by the missionary workers.
3. Special care should be taken to establish Mission District policies that address the afore mentioned problems as well as possible, that the called workers of the Mission District and their ministries may be protected and supported in a manner that is pleasing to God.

Submitted by Pecos Circuit Forum
Roswell, NM

OVERTURES

2025-2-09

To Open Access to the Lutheran Confessions

WHEREAS, the primary objectives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), as stated in Article III of the Constitution of the LCMS, are: “Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith, work through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism, and heresy”; and “Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world”; and

WHEREAS, we pray in the collect for the Church that “Thy Word, as becometh it, may not be bound, but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ’s holy people”; and

WHEREAS, the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Lutheran Confessions), as listed in Article II of the Constitution of the LCMS, as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, are an indispensable resource for achieving the primary objectives of the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, Concordia Publishing House (CPH) is the official publishing house of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, Whereas CPH in 2006 published the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church under the title: Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions-A Reader’s Edition of the Book of Concord – 2nd edition; and

WHEREAS, the said publication, with its historical introductions and other included materials, presents the Lutheran Confessions most intelligibly and clearly; and is the generally preferred English translation among native and non-native English speakers alike; and is the preferred source for most derivative translations into other languages; and

WHEREAS, the said publication is currently restricted by Copyright and licensing, so that the full text is not accessible on the LCMS website nor anywhere else online; nor is the print publication available in most countries; nor is any derivative translation permitted to be made and published in print or online without prior permission; and

WHEREAS, removing the current restrictions of the said publication would greatly assist the LCMS in achieving her primary objectives, by enabling a wider distribution and accessibility of the Lutheran Confessions; therefore be it

Resolved if Concordia Publishing House should desire payment in compensation for anticipated loss of revenue because of this action, that the LCMS should pay to CPH a sum that is mutually agreeable to the LCMS and CPH.

Submitted by Pecos Circuit Forum
Roswell, NM

OVERTURES

2025-2-10 To delegate Circuit Realigning Authority to the Board of Directors

Whereas, a growing number of exemptions have to be sought for the sake of representation at Synodical Conventions, and

Whereas, as the number of pastors who are able and willing to serve as Circuit visitors continues to decrease, and

Whereas, currently the only body given the authority to realign circuits is District Convention held every three years, and

Whereas, it would be expedient and helpful in some cases to not wait until the next convention, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Rocky Mountain District in Convention delegate the authority of realigning circuits to the Board of Directors, and be it finally

Resolved, that by-law 1.06.C be added as follows:

To ensure that an effective program of visitation is carried out and to ensure that the other purposes of the visitation circuit can be fulfilled, and secondarily to allow for effective and reasonable representation of the district's congregations at the Synod convention through the formation of electoral circuits, the district delegates to its board of directors the authority to establish the district's visitation circuits according to considerations of geography, region, and communicant membership. Such a realignment shall come at the request of the District President after consultation with the affected circuit(s) at a circuit forum.

Submitted by:
The Rocky Mountain Board of Directors

OVERTURES

2025-2-11 TO RATIFY THE CIRCUIT VISITORS OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

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

Resolved, That the following individuals be ratified by the assembly of the 53rd Rocky Mountain District Convention to serve as Circuit Visitor:

Circuit 1 - Pecos - Rev. A. Brian Flamme

Circuit 2 - Denver Northwest - Rev. Larry McGurer

Circuit 3 - Denver Southwest - Rev. John Larson

Circuit 4 - Long's Peak - Rev. David Magruder

Circuit 5 - Sandia North - Rev. Doug Escue

Circuit 6 - Sangre de Cristo - Rev. Nick Schulz

Circuit 7 - Northeastern - Rev. Richard von Steinman

Circuit 8 - Utah - Rev. John Manweiler

Circuit 9 - Western - Rev. Kurt van Fossan

Circuit 10 - Rio Grande - Rev. Andrew Cave

Circuit 11 - Eastern High Plains - Rev. William Viergutz

Circuit 12 - Four Corners - Rev. Tim Norton

Circuit 13 - Pike's Peak - Rev. Jonathan Kern

Circuit 14 - Denver Southeast - Rev. Roger Wohletz

Circuit 15 - Denver Northeast - Rev. Jeremy Jacoby

Circuit 16 - Rocky Flats - Rev. Richard Langness

Circuit 17 - Sandia South - Rev. Dustin Kear

Submitted by:

Floor Committee - Elections