

Joy Abounding Across Texas



Convention Proceedings

The 56th Convention of the Texas District LCMS

Bayfront Plaza Convention Center
1901 North Shoreline
Corpus Christi, Texas

June 12-15, 2003

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Joy Abounding Across Texas

36th Convention
of
The Texas District
of
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
June 12-15, 2003

THE PREFACE

Convention Summary

The delegates of the Texas District gathered in their annual convention for a great time of worship, fellowship, and the opening worship service in the great hall. The assembly heard of the opening of the convention and the delegates who followed him.

These proceedings, along with the Convention Workbook, are prepared to provide to the members of the district. The Texas District in Convention so that the business of the Church in this place might be governed wisely and in order for those who follow us.

May God continue to guide the District with his Joy Abounding Across Texas!

In His Service,

Ralph W. Holsinger,
Past Secretary of
The Texas District

Joy Abounding Across Texas
56th Convention
of
The Texas District
of
The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod
June, 12-15, 2003

Preface

The delegates of the Texas District gathered in their triennial convention in Corpus Christi, Texas to conduct the business of the District. From the opening worship service to the gavel of adjournment, the assembly heard of the abounding joy that Jesus Christ has afforded those who follow him.

These Proceedings, along with the Convention Workbook, are prepared to provide an accurate account of the actions taken by the Texas District in Convention so that the business of the Church in this place might be preserved decently and in order for those who follow us.

May God continue to guide the District with his Joy Abounding Across Texas!

In His service,

Ralph W. Hobratschk,
Past Secretary of
The Texas District

The Alliance of the Texas District in Convention
June 15-18, 2003
Dallas, Texas (Dallas Convention Center) - 1000 North
"The Alliance of the Texas District in Convention"

I Convention Summary and Minutes

The Minutes of the Texas District in Convention
June 12-15, 2003
Corpus Christi, Texas
"Joy Abounding Across Texas"

13 June 2003

Rev. Walter Waiser, convention chaplain, led those assembled in singing and prayer time.

President Jim Linderman called the Texas District Convention to order at the appointed hour and proceeded with the Orders of the Day. The first order of business was to accept the Standing Rules for the Convention. They were moved, seconded and adopted.

Opening devotions were led by Rev. Eloy Gonzalez. Kristi Kasper presented the Centennial Moment. Rev. Bill Tucker led the assembly in Bible study.

Delegates, both voting and youth, were oriented to keypad voting by Rev. Walt Pohland. Rev. Ralph Hobratchk reviewed the primer on parliamentary procedure to be used by the delegates.

The Credentials Committee reported that 199 voting clergy and 213 voting laypersons had registered at the beginning of the session. There were also 14 clergy advisory, 66 commissioned ministers and 7 clergy-retired registered.

President Linderman continued the session by presenting the President's Report. President Linderman assumed the presidency in September, 2001 to replace President Kieschnick, who became President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. President Linderman mentioned our continued outreach in the mission fields that have come to us in Texas, CAN-DO ministry, financial responsibility, Mission and Ministry Facilitators and the auxiliary organizations.

As of 10:00 a.m. the Credentials Committee reported 233 clergy and 246 laypersons voting delegates. The keypad orientation indicated that there were more people voting than had registered. It was moved, seconded and carried to amend the Orders of the Day to move to the report of Mission Executive Director, Rev. Ken Hennings, while the Credentials Committee and delegates resolved the registration/voting delegate discrepancy.

Executive Director Hennings reviewed the status of missions in the District. Mission consciousness, congregations and their communities, new mission starts and the challenges of carrying the Gospel to those whose cultures are different than ours were highlighted.

The Credentials Committee reported 486 voting delegates present.

The assembly proceeded with elections under the direction of Rev. Pohland, the Orders

of the Day.

The Rev. Jim Linderman was elected president on the first ballot.

The election and ranking of the Area Vice Presidents are as follows:

First Vice President Rev. David Rohde, Area A

Second Vice President Dr. Robert Preece, Area B

Third Vice President Rev. David Schroder, Area C

Fourth Vice President Rev Donald Black, Area D.

Candidates added to the slate for the Board of Directors elections from the floor included Mr. Glenn Hurta, Layperson at Large, and Marcheta Beasley, Layperson Area D. Those elected to the Board of Directors are as follows: Dr. Gerald Brunworth, Commissioned Minister; Mr. Frank Jennings, Layperson, Area C; Mrs. Pat Biar, Layperson, Area D; Dr. Ernst Kiesling, Layperson at Large.

The slate of candidates for the Board of Mission Administration was amended from the floor to include Rev. Robert Hill, Clergy; Rev Bill Woosley, Clergy; Timothy Merritt, Commissioned Minister; and Vera Sweet, Layperson. It was moved and seconded to delay the election until biographical information could be distributed. Defeated. Those elected to the Board of Mission Administration are as follows: Rev. Ralph Hobratschk, Clergy; Mr. David Glienke, Commissioned Minister; Mr. Ekanem Tom Ekanem, Layperson. It was moved and seconded that Rev. Kent Heimbigner be nominated for the position of District Secretary. Rev. John Davenport was elected.

Before the election of the Nominating Committee it was moved and seconded to amend the ballot with the name of Leif Hasskarl, Clergy Area C, and Andrew Simcak, Jr., Clergy Area D. Both motions carried. It was moved and seconded to amend the ballot for the Nominating Committee with the name of Marie Bultemeier, Layperson. Motion defeated. Those elected to the District Nominating Committee for the 2006 Convention are: Rev. Jay Beyer, Clergy Area A; Rev. David Jung, Clergy Area B; Rev. Kevin Westergren, Clergy Area C; Rev. Francis Schroeder, Clergy Area D; Dr. Sandra Doering, Commissioned Minister; Mr. Mark McClain, Commissioned Minister; Mr. Milton Bade, Layperson; Mr. Ralph Bamsch, Layperson; Mr. Glenn Hurta, Layperson.

It was moved and seconded to dismiss the Elections Committee with thanks. Motion carried.

Floor Committee One—Mission and Ministry directed the attention of the assembly to **Resolution 1-01-03 To Make Evangelism And Outreach A Priority Of The Texas District.** Resolution adopted.

It was moved and seconded that the floor committees read only the resolution, omitting the whereas sections. Carried.

Resolution 1-02-03 To Restore Funding From The Board For Higher Education

Services For The Hispanic Institute Of Theology was introduced and adopted.

Resolution 1-03-03 Financial Support For World Missions was adopted.

Resolution 1-04-03 Financial Support For Concordia Austin was presented. It was moved and seconded to amend the Resolution by including lines 44-46 of **Overture 1-06-03 "Subject: Direct Financial Support For World Missions And Concordia Campuses."** The amendment was defeated.

Resolution 1-04-03 was adopted unamended.

Resolution A-1-03, which resolved to refer **Overtures 1-05 Direct Financial Support For World Missions And Concordia Campuses** and **1-09 Direct Financial Support For Concordia Austin** to the Board of Higher Education was adopted.

Resolutions B-1-03 and D-1-03 were presented as information only. It was moved and seconded to receive the work of Floor Committee One and dismiss them with thanksgiving. Motion carried.

A motion from the floor was introduced to resolve to return keypads to the youth delegates that they may have an active participation in the convention and that, if the convention is unable to provide voting keypads for the youth delegates, the District pick up the tab for the youth to eat dinner for the next two evenings. Motion carried.

Floor Committee Two—Administration presented **Resolution 2-01-03 To Improve The Accuracy Of The Reporting Process Of Offerings To Synod.** Resolution adopted.

Resolution 2-06-03—Amended: Modifying Bylaw 2.27a Of The Bylaws Of Synod. Resolution adopted.

Resolution 2-11-03 To Ask The Synod In Convention To Reconsider Ruling 02-2282 Of The Commission On Constitutional Matters was moved and seconded.

Substitute motion 2-11-03-A was moved and seconded. It was moved and seconded to postpone action on 2-11-03-A until copies were made available to the delegates. Motion carried.

Resolution 2-08-03 To Reaffirm The Congregation's Autonomy In Calling Its Own Pastor was presented. It was moved and seconded to strike "to continue" in line 20 of the Resolution. Motion defeated.

Unamended Resolution 2-08-03 was adopted.

Resolution 2-09-03 To Establish A Consultant On Non-Christian Organizations was adopted.

Resolution 2-03-03 To Emphasize The Importance Of Congregational Overtures At Synodical Conventions came to the floor. It was moved and seconded to amend the final resolve to read, "RESOLVED, that the Texas District 2003 Convention express these concerns of prioritizing Memorials to the Synodical President as soon as possible." Amendment carried.

RESOLUTION 2-03-03 was adopted as amended.

Resolution 2-11-03-A postponed returned to the floor and was adopted.

Resolution 2-10-03-Amended To Revise Constitution And By-Laws was presented. It was moved and seconded to amend the final RESOLVED to read: "1. A special Constitutional Task Force of 11 people selected as follows: 4 members (2 laypersons & 2 pastors) appointed by the Synodical President. 4 members (2 laypersons & 2 pastors) appointed by the Synodical Board of Directors. 1 pastor, 1 commissioned minister, 1 layperson elected by the 2004 Synodical Convention." Amendment carried.

It was moved and seconded to include after 1 layperson, "this layperson to serve as the Task Force chair." Amendment defeated. It was moved and seconded to reconsider "1 member (a layperson to serve as Task Force Chair) appointed by the Council of Presidents." from the original Resolution. Reconsideration defeated. The Previous Question was moved and seconded. The motion carried. The Resolution was adopted as amended.

Resolution 2-07-03 To Change Restriction Concerning Membership On Synodical Board Of Directors (with the typo in line 23 changed from "that" to "than") was adopted.

Resolution 2-12-03 To Decline Overture referring to Overture 2-16, 2-03, 2-04, 2-12, 2-15, 2-04, 2-05 was adopted.

It was moved and seconded to dismiss Floor Committee Two with thanks. Motion carried.

Floor Committee Three—Theology and Church Relations brought to the assembly **Resolution 3-04-03 Amended To Offer Respect, Honor, And Prayer For All Synodical, District, And Congregational Leaders.** Resolution adopted.

Resolution 3-09-03 Amended To Decline Overture was adopted by the assembly.

Resolution 03-08-03 Amended To Study The Guidelines For Ethical Conduct Of Called Servants Of The Gospel Of The Texas District Of The LCMS, As Recommended By The District's Task Force On Ethics was presented. It was moved and seconded to strike in line 24 "and to give direction and guidance for expected conduct for called servants of the Gospel in the Texas District" and add "by the

congregations of the Texas District,” It was moved and seconded to amend the amendment by adding, “and the ordained as well as commissioned ministers.” Motion carried. It was moved to call the question. Motion carried. The Resolution was adopted as amended.

Reverend William Diekelman, President of the Oklahoma District, addressed the convention under the theme: “Surprised by Joy—The Mystery and Ministry of Joy.”

Don Christian led the convention in closing worship.

This brought to a close the Orders of the Day.

14 June 2003

Rev. Walt Waiser led those assembled in music and prayer. Rev. Samuel Cosby led the devotions.

The assembly resumed its work on the morning of 14 June 2003 with the Orders of the Day as Floor Committee Three continued by presenting **Resolution 3-02-03 Affirming The Action Of The Last Convention (Resolution 3-07A)**. A move of the previous question was sustained. The Resolution was adopted.

The Committee next presented **Resolution 3-01-03 Amended To Clarify the Distinction Between “Altar And Pulpit Fellowship” And Prayer**. It was moved and seconded to amend line 9 of the second page to include the entire wording of 2 Timothy 4:2. The Committee consensus was to include the entire text. It was moved and seconded to amend line 19 of the Resolution by omitting the words “with other Christians” from the Resolve. Debate on the amendment was suspended by a call for the Orders of the Day.

Rev. William Diekelman continued the Convention Essay, “Surprised by Joy.”

The breakout sessions for those in attendance were convened as scheduled.

The assembly viewed Synodical President Gerald B. Kieschnick’s presentation of “One Mission, One Message, One People.”

The Youth Delegates expressed their thanks to the convention.

President Kieschnick answered questions from the floor. The Orders of the Day were amended to allow President Kieschnick to continue answering questions until 4:25 p.m.

Debate on the amendment to amend line 19 on Page 2 to **Resolution 3-01-03** continued. The previous question was moved and sustained. The motion to amend failed. It was moved and seconded to strike Resolves 1, 3, and 4. Motion failed.

The previous question was moved and sustained. The assembly adopted **Resolution 3-01-03**.

The Committee presented **Resolution 3-06-03 Amended To Uphold The Doctrine Of Christian Liberty**. It was moved and seconded to amend by addition the following Resolved, "RESOLVED, that we 'encourage congregations to strive for uniformity in church practice, but also to develop an appreciation of a variety of responsible practices and customs which are in harmony with our common profession of faith,' (Constitution of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Article III Objectives, point #7); and be it further" The amendment failed. By common consent the assembly added "and to the weak in faith" to line 11 of Page 2 of the Resolution. The Resolution was adopted.

Consideration of **Resolution 3-03-03 Amended Affirming The Action Of The Last Convention (Resolution 3-07A)** was postponed until copies could be prepared and distributed.

The Committee directed the attention of the assembly to **Resolution 3-05-03 "To Vigorously Make Known The Love Of Christ In Word And Deed Within Our Churches, Communities, And The World."** It was moved to amend the Resolution by replacing "common ground" with "doctrinal unity." It was moved to withdraw the amendment. Motion carried. The Floor Committee inserted "in the realm of human care" in line 16. By consensus the word "human" in line 14 was deleted. **Resolution 3-05-03** was adopted with changes.

Postponed **Resolution 3-03-03** was drawn from the Table. It was moved and seconded to amend the Resolution with the RESOLVE of a substitute motion, "RESOLVED that the Texas District memorialize the 2004 LCMS Convention to reconsider the controversial aspects of Resolution 3-07A." The previous question as moved and sustained. The amendment failed.

The previous question on the **Resolution** was moved and sustained. **Resolution 3-03-03 Amended was adopted unamended.** (Typo in line 38 was changed from "further" to "finally".)

Resolution 3-07-03 To Confess Openly Our Common Faith In The Doctrine Of Salvation Through Faith In Christ Alone was brought to the floor. It was moved and seconded to strike the first RESOLVED, "when addressing the media all clergy, officials, and church workers of the District and Synod be encouraged to consult with District and /or Synod's Public Relations staff members."

The amendment failed. **Resolution 3-07-03** was adopted.

It was moved and seconded to extend the Orders of the Day by 30 minutes. Motion carried.

Resolution A-03-03 to refer Overture 03-02 to the District President was adopted.

Resolution B-03-03 to refer petitioners in Overtures 03-06, 03-09, 03-11, 03-13, 03-16, and 03-17 to previous convention action or task force activity was adopted.

Resolution D-03-03 Overtures received as expression of encouragement or gratitude was adopted.

It was moved and seconded to dismiss the Floor Committee with thanksgiving. Motion carried.

A Privileged Motion was moved and seconded:

Whereas, in God's Word, our Triune Lord establishes marriage as a holy estate;
and

Whereas, God continues to demonstrate His faithfulness through Christian marriages today; and

Whereas, on this very day, June 14, in the year of our Lord 1958, that is 45 years ago today; the Lord saw fit to bless and consecrate in marriage, Rev. James Linderman and Mrs. Jean Linderman

Therefore, be it resolved, that this Convention rise and sing the Doxology in thanks to our gracious God for His love and faithfulness in and through the Lindermans and all LCMS couples who celebrated wedding anniversaries this month.

The assembly rose and sang.

The electoral circuit caucuses met for synodical delegate elections.

15 June 2003

The day began with Reverend Walter Waiser and Reverend Dung Van Do for prayer and devotions.

Dr. David Joeckel and Rev. Eugene Heckmann presented the Centennial Minute

Rev. Bill Tucker led the assembly in Bible Study.

Presentations were made to the Vice Presidents' wives, and the Convention Committee was recognized.

The convention video was broadcast.

The assembly adjourned to the Selena Auditorium for closing worship services led by

President Kieschnick.

President Linderman declared the Fifty-sixth Convention of the Texas District adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph W. Hobratschk, Secretary

Report of the District President

Dr. James R. Linderman, President

II

Report of the District President

Rev. James R. Linderman, President

Texas District Convention 2003
56th Regular Convention
Corpus Christi, Texas

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the honor and privilege that you have given me to serve as your District President. There have been many challenges, however, there has been a tremendous amounts of joy and feelings of self-satisfaction these past two years.

One of the low points in my time of service has been the death of my good friend and our Brother, The Reverend Bill Shupe, a very untimely death for a talented and gifted servant of the Lord. We pray that the Lord will continue to be with Sheryl and his family as they deal with their sorrows and grief. We are grateful for the redemptive work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that makes it possible for us to see Bill again.

One of the highest points these past two years has been the opportunity to meet with the new Candidates and Vicars the evening of their assignments at Fort Wayne and St. Louis. The excitement they have about going out into the field to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ becomes an inspiration to all who see them and can be with them. A special blessing is the opportunity to meet with their wives and their children as they too share the zeal for the proclamation of the Gospel and the excitement of moving to their first assignment and parish.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your constant prayers. I certainly can feel their comfort as I confront different issues and activities in our Church. Over and over again, people send me notes and email messages that they are praying for me. I want you to know that I appreciate each and every one of them.

I also want to thank you for the faithful service you have given to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by your faithful work in His Kingdom, as a pastor, as a lay person, and as a Commissioned Minister. At times, it has not been easy for you, but you have met the challenges with the renewed vigor of the Holy Spirit. Many times, you've worked under less than favorable conditions, but always knowing that you are appreciated by those that you serve, even though at times, they seem to expect more than you are capable of producing. Nevertheless, we know that God's Hands are always upon our shoulders, equipping us to meet the challenges He sets before us. With all sincerity, I offer these words to you, "Well done, thou good and faithful servants."

It is impossible for me to go around and shake the hands of every person in the Texas District, but this Convention affords me the opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to you and to the churches in our District for your unselfish financial support

of the ministries sponsored by Synod and the District. I realize these have not been easy financial times and that your giving has been a sacrifice for the Gospel. I certainly appreciate your faithfulness. Other leaders in our Church would echo my words of appreciation. Your being here today gives me an opportunity to tell you of our appreciation and hold you up as the significant person in our mission effort.

The cost of doing ministry continues to increase. Health care costs continue to climb and we do not see an end to their demands upon our budgets. Hopefully, there will be some resolve to this matter in the future. Churches will continue to have a difficult time dealing with this cost, but it is so necessary that we provide sufficient health care for our church workers.

For every dollar that you send to the Texas District, \$.32 is sent to Synod for their work here at home and also abroad. \$.44 is spent on financing the mission work here in the Texas District. In other words, 76% of all the monies received in the Texas District go to some form of mission work or evangelistic outreach. 24% or \$.24 of every dollar goes for administrative support of your ministries and those of the Texas District, such as congregational and church worker care, a grant to CAN-DO and support of our Mission and Ministry Facilitators. One could rightly argue that all of the monies received goes to outreach and the proclamation of the Gospel in some form or another.

I want to take this opportunity also to remind you that if you want to make a personal contribution solely to the Texas Mission effort, for you to contact Mr. Gary Einem, who is the Director of Stewardship and Texas Partners in Mission in the Texas District, and ask him about making a contribution to Texas Partners in Mission. Those funds go directly to our mission effort here in the Texas District.

I thank you for being here so that I can share my vision for the Texas District with you. My vision for the Texas District is to see our congregations share in the preaching and sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with each other and the unchurched with a renewed vigor and passion in an atmosphere of love and cooperation among congregations and fellow Christians. This is something I long for and I'm convinced that this is something that God desires. If angels are rejoicing over every sinner who repents, we should surely be joyful supporters of our brothers who are effective proclaimers of the Gospel rather than finding fault with their approaches and methods of evangelism.

I thank you for being here because you can help make this vision come true by giving your guidance with your vote in selecting outreach minded leaders and by approving those resolutions that are positive and that are diligent to move our Church forward. I ask that you defeat those who want to dig up old bones and rehash the past. Resentments are hard to deal with and to get rid of. I would pray that you would ask God to help all of us work through our resentments so that we can be positive about our mission and brotherly in our relationships with one another. It is too easy to fall into the attitude of trying to solve our problems with the Law. This we see does not work politically as is very evident in the relationship with Israel and the Palestinians and it does not work in

marriages, nor does it work in the Church. God has given us the Gospel in Jesus Christ to tell one another that He loves us and that we love each other because of His love.

I'm excited about the guidelines provided by our Task Force on Ethics and Morality. I hope they are well received by you and I hope that they will be approved as we go forward into this Convention year. They certainly will provide us an opportunity for study and discussion on different ethical matters that affect the Church. Please do not look upon this work as just another set of laws or rules but rather as guidelines and expectations of how brothers should work with brothers and sisters with sisters.

I hope the general thrust of this Convention would give us all the opportunity to give glory to God. I pray that we will say and do what is acceptable in God's sight and that we will be concerned about our words and attitudes to one another as we speak in love to each other in dealing with matters of the Church and issues of great importance.

I hope we will have opportunity to be spirit-filled and leave refreshed. We have had a good beginning as we gathered in worship following the service that was planned by Rob Gerlach, Music Director of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Austin, and we will continue to be uplifted in the devotions that have been scheduled by our devotional leaders. I hope that we will leave not just refreshed spiritually, but also filled intellectually with new information and new insights as we follow the Bible Study provided by Rev. Bill Tucker from Concordia Lutheran in San Antonio and the Convention essay given by Rev. Bill Dickelman, President of the Oklahoma District. My sincere thanks to the "breakout" leaders who gave us special insight into special areas of interest. Please don't overlook the importance of informal conversations and the sharing of insights.

I hope that you will also have a fun time as you meet old friends and share stories of life and ministry. I hope you will take advantage of all of the wonderful food and things available in this port city to lift your spirits.

As our Convention year goes forward, I want to challenge you to discuss the present issues of fellowship that are confronting our Church in a very positive and loving manner. We have to get through these issues or they will destroy us. The Christian Church and The Lutheran Church have dealt with similar issues in the past. They have always been a struggle. There has not been an easy answer, but we know that we can work through them with the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the way we get through difficult things. If this were an easy chore, it would not be a problem. However, we can turn this problem into an opportunity for challenges and growth if we deal with it in the spirit of Christ and with His love reflected in one another.

We have had a formal discussion concerning fellowship matters with our pastors. Now we are going to provide the lay folks and the Commissioned Ministers this same opportunity. We have four sessions scheduled:

- Area A - Lubbock Redeemer
- Area B - Dallas Zion

- Area C - San Antonio King of Kings
- Area D - Houston Trinity

I encourage all of the lay people and Commissioned Ministers to be present for these meetings so that they can express their heartfelt concerns about the matters of the Church. It always helps to openly discuss our feelings and to share our thoughts with one another so that we can get feedback from those who love us and care about us.

Some of you will be caucusing tomorrow to elect your delegates for the Synodical Convention. When you elect your delegates for the Synodical Convention to be held in St. Louis in 2004, I would challenge the electoral circuits to elect the best men and women to serve in this capacity, one of the determining factors should be if they are mission-minded people, people who have a passion to reach the lost. I hope that you will select people who are proven leaders in their own congregations and churches. These are people who understand the issues that are facing our Church today and who have a spirit of love and concern for one another, as well as need to always be right.

I want to challenge you to go back home with a renewed spirit to reach the lost. Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation. There are only two places for us after death, Heaven and hell. There is no middle ground for the good who die without Christ. If you truly love those people who are around you, your major concern and first mission would be to get the Message of Salvation to them so that the Holy Spirit can work upon their hearts and change their lives and direction so that under the power of the Holy Spirit they will accept Christ as their Savior.

I want you to have a passion to reach the lost through supporting the District and Synodical missions. When we talk about Synodical missions and District missions, these are your mission efforts. These are your outreach posts. These are people going places where you cannot go. You are part of this by your financial support. I'd like for you to think of them as being your missions, just as if you were there present at any particular place.

I really want to challenge you to be active in your congregations when you get back home. You can make a difference. I want you to be willing to accept leadership positions and to support your pastor and his work. I hope you leave here with new vigor to go out and meet the challenges that confront you as an individual Christian as you live out your life in a very real world. That means living an example of a Christian in a society that does not respect the ethics that you have and also a challenge in you to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the individual people that God has placed around you. These people see you as having a lot more creditability in regard to sharing the Good News of Jesus than we do as ordained clergy. I pray also that you will leave with a new joy of knowing that you are accomplishing God's mission and that there will be joy in Heaven because of those people you have reached with the Gospel.

I want to challenge you to leave here with a joyful spirit in a sometimes disappointed world, one that likes to look at an empty glass, rather than a full glass. When you get

back home and people ask you what happened in Corpus Christi, I hope you will be able to tell them that you have seen the District President's vision of the Church, and it is that we are to be sharers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a new passion and, in doing so, that we live with each other as brothers and sisters in a spirit of harmony and love. I hope they can see this joy in you as you reflect the Gospel that you heard here in this place. As you go back, I hope you can tell them you've seen the Lord at work in the Church in the passing of resolutions and the electing of different leaders. I hope you can tell them you've seen the Lord in the Worship Services, you've heard the Scriptures read and have received the Body and Blood of our Lord in Holy Communion. I hope you can tell them you've seen the Lord among the Brothers and Sisters and the love they have had with one another as they dealt with the Church's business and as they fellowshiped and broke bread together at some of the wonderful restaurants in this lovely city.

May God bless your being here and your going forth from this time forth and ever more with a joyful spirit.

Amen!

RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP WITH THE SYNOD

The following new congregations were received into membership with the Synod as reported by the Board of Christianity and the Board of Christian Education in 1960:

1960

RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

Flower Mount Emmanuel

III

San Antonio, San Antonio

San Antonio, San Antonio

SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP

For Women, Christian Education, Christian Mission

Summit, Light of the World

1961

San Antonio, San Antonio

San Antonio, San Antonio

San Antonio, San Antonio

1962

San Antonio, San Antonio

San Antonio, San Antonio

San Antonio, San Antonio

San Antonio, San Antonio

San Antonio, San Antonio

San Antonio, San Antonio

San Antonio, San Antonio

San Antonio, San Antonio

San Antonio, San Antonio

San Antonio, San Antonio

San Antonio, San Antonio

San Antonio, San Antonio

San Antonio, San Antonio

RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP WITH THE SYNOD

The following new congregations were received into membership with the Synod as reported to the Convention by the Board of Directors.

2000

Flower Mound, Emmanuel

San Antonio, Cristo Nuestro Salvador
San Antonio, San Esteban

2001

Fort Worth, Cristo Rompio Las Cadenas Mission
Summerfield, Light of the World

2002

Frisco, Water's Edge
Austin Lakeway, CrossBridge Community
Portland, Fishers of Family

PASTORS

The following pastors were reported to the Convention as having been ordained and installed, and have signed the Constitution of Synod for full recognition as official members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

ORDAINED AND INSTALLED

2000

Rev. Bradley C. Aldrich
Rev. George Franklin Borghardt, III
Rev. Christopher James Bramich
Rev. Dale L. Brynestad
Rev. Lonnie Gonzales
Rev. Robert William Holaday
Rev. Peter Carl Kolb
Rev. Mark Frederick Lasch
Rev. Jonathan Frederick Meyer
Rev. James Martin Richardson, Sr.
Rev. Scott Albert Schaller
Rev. George William Shaffer
Rev. Dr. Raymond Dell Spitzenberger
Rev. David Jonathan Thies

2001

Rev. Jeffrey A. Ahonen
Rev. Thomas Warren Baden
Rev. Edward Banarsi
Rev. H. H. "Bud" Beverly
Rev. Jeffrey S. Doria
Rev. Eloy S. Gonzalez
Rev. Brian J. Hesse
Rev. Lewis L. Kash
Rev. Terry L. Meyer
Rev. Robert Mueller
Rev. Manuel Ignacio Paniagua
Rev. Timothy J. Sternberg
Rev. Charles Richard Wokoma

2002

Rev. Mason Tyler Beecroft
Rev. Toby Obadiah Byrd
Rev. Steven Fick
Rev. Julio Flamenco
Rev. Mark Ross Junkans
Rev. Robert Arvid Kobler
Rev. Timothy M. Kohlmeier
Rev. Timothy Lane Ochsner
Rev. Timothy B. Perkins
Rev. Timothy M. Radkey
Rev. Sean D. Reeves

EDUCATORS

The following Educators were reported to the Convention as having signed the Constitution of Synod for full recognition as official members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

Jacci Barnhart
Kelli Belt
Elizabeth Bertrand
Linda Buffington
Peter Burow
Karen Crone
Carrie Deist
Raelyn Dover
Kristi Fischer
Kurt Frieling
Micah Gaunt
Paige W. Geyser
Heidi Handrick
Jamie Hinck
Laura Jeseritz
Angela Kamrath
Amy Keilman

Sally Jane Kloppe
Valeria Lopez
Eric Malm
Cynthia G. Meek
Cathy Marie Meyer
Christine Freet Meyer
Catherine Morton
Tracy Pressel
Karen Bell Richter
Susan C. Runge
Julia Sohns
Rhea Ann Speigel
Matthew Straub
John T. Werner
Marsha Wiese
Kristy Witek
Bethany Blaire Zerby

2001

Daniel S. Barber
Liesl Katherine Bockelman
Heather Bostick
Cheryl Burmeister
Pam Byerly
Joan Canez
Amy M. Claude
Christine Wilson Greene
Peggy Hardt
Jennifer T. Larson
Jennifer Martin
Melody Dawn Mayer
Rose McIntyre
Deborah K. Mitchell
Eloise P. Nisayas

Christina M. Oldham
Margie E. Pacey
David W. Pendley
Stephanie Poyner
Heidi S. Rotsted
Amanda Sue Rowland
Heather L. Saylor
Aaron Schnegelberger
Rachel Schnegelberger
Angela Sorley
Serena Sutliff
Scott A. Tillman
Lisa VietsKari Waterman
Jennifer C. Wied
Bernice E. Wolf

2002

Elaine Iris Barbee
John Birdsong
Sherrill Burgdorf
Paul Cheney
Michelle Dawn Chunn
Candice Dominguez
Jennifer A. Frosch
Bartley Goddard
Suzanne Gonzalez
David Gottschalk
Kathi Grothe
Brad Hamann
Rachel E. Hoffman
Patricia Kelm
Sara K. Kimle
Charessa Dawn Koontz
Mark R. Liebenew
Shane Z. Lobaugh
Melody Magallanez
Amy Martens
Brandy Joy Marti
Kimberly E. Michaelis
Corey James Moss

Angie M. Nichols
Betsy Parbhoo
Jennifer Pieper
Kelly Renae Poore
Nathan Robbins
Pamela Jean Shealy
Michael Scott Staub
Jennifer Lynn Taylor
Cheryl A. Wildauer

IV ELECTIONS

The Texas District of 17th Judicial District - 2003 Convention

Robert Foster*	47%	Election Results
Robert Foster*	47%	(% without election)
Robert Foster*	47%	

Robert A. Foster (17th Judicial District)

Robert Foster*	47%
Robert Foster*	47%

The Office of District President

Robert Foster*	47%
Robert Foster*	47%

* 2003 election

The Office of Vice President (A)

Robert A. Foster (17th Judicial District)

Robert Foster*	47%
Robert Foster*	47%

Robert Foster*	47%
Robert Foster*	47%

The Office of Vice President (B)

Robert A. Foster (17th Judicial District)

Robert Foster*	47%
Robert Foster*	47%

Robert Foster*	47%
Robert Foster*	47%

The Office of Vice President (C)

Robert A. Foster (17th Judicial District)

Robert Foster*	47%
Robert Foster*	47%

Robert Foster*	47%
Robert Foster*	47%

The Office of Vice President (D)

Robert A. Foster (17th Judicial District)

Robert Foster*	47%
Robert Foster*	47%

Robert Foster*	47%
Robert Foster*	47%

The Office of Vice President (E) (F)

Robert Foster*	47%
Robert Foster*	47%

The Texas District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod
2003 Convention
Election Results
(* indicates election)

The Office of District President

Kenneth Hennings	9 %
James Linderman*	60%
David Rohde	31%

The Office of Vice President (Area A)

Jay Beyer	6 %
Dean Kelm	5 %
Carroll Kohl	25 %
Robert Pase	4 %
David Rohde*	59 %

The Office of Vice President (Area B)

David Bahn	9%
Glenn Huebel	32%
Robert Preece*	59%

The Office of Vice President (Area C)

Leif Hasskarl	12%
David Schroder*	64%
Bryan Sullivan	25%

The Office of Vice President (Area D)

Donald Black*	63%
Jerome Teichmiller	37%

The Ranking of Vice Presidents (Ballot 1, First)

David Rhode*	41%
Robert Preece	26%
David Schroder	19%
Donald Black	15%

The Ranking of Vice Presidents (Ballot 2, Second)

Robert Preece*	49%
David Schroder	28%
Donald Black	23%

The Ranking of Vice Presidents (Ballot 3, Third)

David Schroder*	54%
Donald Black	46%

The Ranking of Vice Presidents (Fourth)

Donald Black*

The Board of Directors

Commissioned Minister

Gerald Brunworth*	68%
Jennifer Matthys	32%

Layperson (Area C)

Frank Jennings*	59%
Ken Weiser	42%

Layperson (Area D, Ballot 1)

Pat Biar	48%
Wesley Krueger	27%
Marcheta Beasley	25%

Layperson (Area D, Ballot 2)

Pat Biar*	58%
Wesley Krueger	42%

Layperson at Large (Ballot 1)

Ernst Kiesling	42%
Eldridge Smith	24%
Glenn Hurta	35%

Layperson at Large (Ballot 2)

Ernst Kiesling*	52%
Glenn Hurta	48%

Board of Mission Administration

Pastor (Ballot 1)

Ralph Hobratschk	43%
Ric McMillian	15%
Robert Hill	28%
Bill Woolsey	13%

Pastor (Ballot 2)

Ralph Hobratschk*	53%
Ric McMillian	17%
Robert Hill	29%

Commissioned Minister (Ballot 1)

David Glienke	50%
Larry Hoffschneider	23%
Timothy Merritt	28%

Commissioned Minister (Ballot 2)

David Glienke*	69%
Timothy Merritt	31%

Layperson (Ballot 1)

Ekanem Tom Ekanem*	40%
Timothy Stahlke	34%
Vera Sweet	26%

Layperson (Ballot 2)

Ekanem Tom Ekanem*	58%
Timothy Stahlke	42%

District Secretary

(Ballot 1)

John Davenport	43%
Carl Trovall	31%
Kent Heimbigner	26%

(Ballot 2)

John Davenport*	59%
Carl Trovall	41%

2006 Nominating Committee

Pastor (Area A)

Jay Beyer*	56%
Carroll Kohl	44%

Pastor (Area B)

David Jung*	51%
Donald Olson, Jr.	49%

Pastor (Area C) (Ballot 1)

Kevin Lentz	33% (152 votes)
Kevin Westergren	34%
Leif Hasskarl	33% (151 votes)

Pastor (Area C) (Ballot 2)

Kevin Lentz	47%
Kevin Westergren*	53%

Pastor (Area D) (Ballot 1)

Todd Dittloff	28%
Francis Schroeder	46%
Andrew Simcak, Jr.	26%

Pastor (Area D) (Ballot 2)

Todd Dittloff	36%
Francis Schroeder*	64%

Commissioned Minister (Ballot 1)

Sandra Doering	46%
Mark McClain	32%
Michael Naleieha	8%
Dave Rahberg	13%

Commissioned Minister (Ballot 2)

Sandra Doering*	55%
Mark McClain	34%
Dave Rahberg	11%

Commissioned Minister (Ballot 3)

Mark McClain	49%
Michael Naleieha	10%
Dave Rahberg	35%

2006 Nominating Committee - continued

Commissioned Minister (Ballot 4)

Mark McClain*	58%
Dave Rahberg	42%

Layperson (Ballot 1)

Milton R. Bade	22%
Ralph Bamsch	22%
Del Deterling	12%
Glenn R Hurta	24%
Charles Iselt	9%
John Lange	10%

Layperson (Ballot 2)

Milton R. Bade	37%
Ralph Bamsch	27%
Glenn R. Hurta	35%

Layperson (Ballot 3)

Milton R. Bade	44%
Glenn R. Hurta*	56%

Layperson (Ballot 4)

Milton R. Bade	39%
Ralph Bamsch	31%
Del Deterling	13%
Charles Iselt	8%
John Lange	9%

Layperson (Ballot 5)

Milton R. Bade*	60%
Ralph Bamsch	40%

Layperson (Ballot 6)

Ralph Bamsch	46%
Del Deterling	23%
Charles Iselt	13%
John Lange	18%

Layperson (Ballot 7)

Ralph Bamsch*	51%
Del Deterling	29%
John Lange	20%

The Ratifying Ballot for Circuit Counselors-92%

Mark Cattau	Circuit #1	Herbert Keistman	Circuit #22
Jay Beyer	Circuit #2	Dennis Bragdon	Circuit #23
Phillip Konz	Circuit #4	David Ebert	Circuit #24
Robert Budewig	Circuit #5	Henry Biar	Circuit #25
Donald Loesch	Circuit #6	Del King	Circuit #26
Kenneth Bersche	Circuit #7	Gilbert Franke	Circuit #27
Russell Ticken	Circuit #8	Walter Pohland	Circuit #28
Kenneth Watson	Circuit #9	William Schwertlich	Circuit #31
John Lindner	Circuit #11	Matthew Jacobs	Circuit #32
Randall Haedge	Circuit #12	Herbert Graf	Circuit #33
Wayne Renning	Circuit #13	Timothy Dinger	Circuit #34
Russell Etzel	Circuit #14	Todd Dittloff	Circuit #35
John Nunes	Circuit #15	David Tessmann	Circuit #36
John Austin	Circuit #16	Tom Van Duzer	Circuit #37
Bernard Schey	Circuit #17	Mike Ramey	Circuit #38
Stephen Rynearson	Circuit #18	Clayton Campbell	Circuit #39
Martin Doering	Circuit #19	John Cain	Circuit #41
William Knippa	Circuit #20	Michael Snow	Circuit #42
Kevin Westergren	Circuit #21	John Stelling	Circuit #43

2017 ROSTER OF THE TEXAS DISTRICT

V

COMPLETE ROSTER

OF

OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

OF

THE TEXAS DISTRICT

ROSTER OF OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

2003 ROSTER OF THE TEXAS DISTRICT OFFICERS, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

OFFICERS

President.....	Rev. James Linderman
First Vice President.....	Rev. David Rohde
Second Vice President.....	Rev. Dr. Robert Preece
Third Vice President	Rev. David Schroder
Fourth Vice President.....	Rev. Donald Black
Secretary of the District	Rev. John Davenport
Assistant Secretary of the District.....	Rev. Dr. Carl Trovall

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. James Linderman.....	President
Rev. David Rohde.....	First Vice President
Rev. Dr. Robert Preece.....	Second Vice President
Rev. David Schroder.....	Third Vice President
Rev. Donald Black.....	Fourth Vice President
Rev. John Davenport.....	District Secretary

Educator

Mr. David Sommermeyer
Dr. Gerald Brunworth

Lay

Dr. Marvin Platten (Area A)
Mrs. Pearl Biar (Area B)
Mr. Frank Jennings (Area C)
Mrs. Pat Biar (Area D)
Dr. Ernst Kiesling (At Large)

CIRCUIT COUNSELORS

Mark Cattau	Circuit #1	Herbert Keistman	Circuit #22
Jay Beyer	Circuit #2	Dennis Bragdon	Circuit #23
Phillip Konz	Circuit #4	David Ebert	Circuit #24
Robert Budewig	Circuit #5	Henry Biar	Circuit #25
Donald Loesch	Circuit #6	Del King	Circuit #26
Kenneth Bersche	Circuit #7	Gilbert Franke	Circuit #27
Russell Ticken	Circuit #8	Walter Pohland	Circuit #28
Kenneth Watson	Circuit #9	William Schwertlich	Circuit #31
John Lindner	Circuit #11	Matthew Jacobs	Circuit #32
Randall Haedge	Circuit #12	Herbert Graf	Circuit #33
Wayne Renning	Circuit #13	Timothy Dinger	Circuit #34
Russell Etzel	Circuit #14	Todd Dittloff	Circuit #35
John Nunes	Circuit #15	David Tessmann	Circuit #36
John Austin	Circuit #16	Tom Van Duzer	Circuit #37
Bernard Schey	Circuit #17	Mike Ramey	Circuit #38
Stephen Rynearson	Circuit #18	Clayton Campbell	Circuit #39
Martin Doering	Circuit #19	John Cain	Circuit #41
William Knippa	Circuit #20	Michael Snow	Circuit #42
Kevin Westergren	Circuit #21	John Stelling	Circuit #43

BOARD FOR MISSION ADMINISTRATION

Pastors

Rev. Ralph Hobratschk
 Rev. Steve Henze
 Rev. Gary Martin
 Rev. Ken Hennings
 Rev. John Messmann
 Rev. Carroll Kohl

Educator

Mr. David Glienke

Lay

Mrs. Lucy Wilke
 Mrs. Beth Lauterbach
 Mr. Ekanem Ekanem
 Mr. Edwin (Ed) Moerbe
 Mrs. Sylvia Schmidt

DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Pastors

Area A:

Rev. Jay Beyer

Area B:

Rev. David Jung

Area C:

Rev. Kevin Westergren

Area D:

Rev. Francis Schroeder

Educator

Mrs. Sandra Doering

Mr. Mark McClain

Lay

Mr. Milton R. Bade

Mr. Glenn Hurta

Mr. John Lange

BOARD OF REGENTS, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY AT AUSTIN

Pastors

Rev. Dr. Richard Noack (D)

Rev. Glenn E. Huebel (S)

Cartwright(BOR)

Rev. James Linderman (DP)

Educator

Mr. Curtis Riske (D)

Mr. Donald Christian (S)

Lay

Mrs. Patricia Bokenkamp (S)

Dr. Ceretha S.

Dr. Clarence Dockweiler (D)

Mr. Donald Graf (S)

Mrs. Melissa Knippa (BOR)

Mr. James Smith (BOR)

Mrs. Peggy Turnipseed (S)

Mr. Alan Werchan (BOR)

(D) - Elected at District Convention

(S) - Elected at Synodical Convention

(BOR) - Appointed by Board of Regents

VI

TABLE OF RESOLUTIONS

1-01-02	To Repeal the Existing Law Relating to the Texas Board of Higher Education
1-02-03	To Repeal the Existing Law Relating to the Texas Board of Higher Education
1-03-03	To Repeal the Existing Law Relating to the Texas Board of Higher Education
1-04-03	To Repeal the Existing Law Relating to the Texas Board of Higher Education
1-05-03	To Repeal the Existing Law Relating to the Texas Board of Higher Education
1-06-03	To Repeal the Existing Law Relating to the Texas Board of Higher Education
1-07-03	To Repeal the Existing Law Relating to the Texas Board of Higher Education
1-08-03	To Repeal the Existing Law Relating to the Texas Board of Higher Education
1-09-03	To Repeal the Existing Law Relating to the Texas Board of Higher Education
1-10-03	To Repeal the Existing Law Relating to the Texas Board of Higher Education
1-11-03	To Repeal the Existing Law Relating to the Texas Board of Higher Education
1-12-03	To Repeal the Existing Law Relating to the Texas Board of Higher Education

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
1-01-03	To Make Evangelism and Outreach a Priority of the Texas District
1-02-03	To Restore Funding from the Board for Higher Education Services for the Hispanic Institute of Theology
1-03-03	Financial Support for World Missions
1-04-03	Financial Support For Concordia Austin
2-01-03	To Improve the Accuracy of the Reporting Process of Offerings to Synod
2-03-03	To Emphasize the Importance of Congregational Overtures at Synodical Conventions
2-04-03	To Study the Formation and Function of Committees on the Synodical and District Levels
2-05-03	To Review Procedures in Filing Charges Against Members of Synod
2-06-03 A	Modifying Bylaw 2.27a of the Bylaws of Synod
2-07-03	To Change Restrictions Concerning Membership on Synodical Board of Directors
2-08-03	To Reaffirm the Congregation's Autonomy in Calling its Own Pastor
2-09-03	To Establish a Consultant on Non-Christian Organizations
2-10-03 A	To Revise Constitutions and By-Laws
2-11-03 A	To Ask the Synod in Convention to Affirm Ruling 02-2282 of the Substitute Resolution Commission on Constitutional Matters
2-12-03	To Decline Overture 2-16

Resolution A-2-03 Amended	Referring Overtures To Those Responsible
Overtures 2-03, 2-04	To Synodical Commission on Structure
Overture 2-12	To Synodical Commission on Structure
Overture 2-15	To Synodical Commission on Structure
2-04-03	To Synodical Commission on Structure
2-05-03	President's Blue Ribbon Commission
3-01-03 Amended	To Clarify the Distinction Between "Altar and Pulpit Fellowship" and Prayer
3-02-03	To Respect and Trust Each Other
3-03-03 Amended	Affirming the Action of the Last Convention (Resolution 3-07A)
3-04-03 Amended	To Offer Respect, Honor, and Prayer for all Synodical, District and Congregational Leaders
3-05-03	"To Vigorously Make Known the Love of Christ in Word and Deed within our Churches, Communities and the World"
3-06-03 Amended	To Uphold the Doctrine of Christian Liberty
3-07-03	To Confess Openly Our Common Faith in the Doctrine of Salvation Through Faith in Christ Alone
3-08-03 Amended	To Study the Guidelines for Ethical Conduct of Called Servants of the Gospel of the Texas District of the LCMS, as Recommended by the District's Task Force on Ethics
3-09-03 Amended	To Decline Overture To Remove Auxiliary Status of the International Lutheran Layman's League
Resolution A - 03-03	Referring Overtures to the Board, Commission or Individual Responsible
Resolution B - 03-03	Referring Petitioners to Previous Convention Resolutions

FLOOR COMMITTEE ONE - MISSION AND MINISTRY

RESOLUTION 1-01-03

Overtures 1-01 And 1-02

SUBJECT: TO MAKE EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH A PRIORITY OF THE TEXAS DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the mission of the Texas District is to strengthen congregations to reach the lost, disciple the saved and care for people – locally and globally; and

WHEREAS, the vision statement of the Texas District states that “In the year 2006, the congregations of the Texas District are mission-driven congregations which...

...touch and win those who do not know Jesus Christ,
...enrich and empower those who do; and

WHEREAS, through its commitment to Synod's "3/10" process (3 years of training followed by 10 years of extensive outreach) the Texas District has subscribed to the "Tell the Good News about Jesus", Dr. Barry's goal for the LCMS of 3,000,000 members by the year 2010; and

WHEREAS, President Kieschnick has identified reaching the lost as essential to our Synodical Mission of “One Message, One Mission, One People”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the officers and Boards and staff of the Texas District continue to place evangelism as a high priority in their life and work; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Texas District create at least one District convocation for both laity and church professionals focusing on the themes of evangelism and outreach each triennium; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Texas District commit at least one District pastor's conference to the themes of evangelism and outreach each triennium; and be it finally

RESOLVED, each congregation develop a three year plan for evangelism which is shared by the pastor and monitored at circuit conference meetings.

Rev. Bill Woolsey, Chairman

RESOLUTION 1-02-03

Overture 1-03

SUBJECT: TO RESTORE FUNDING FROM THE BOARD FOR HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES FOR THE HISPANIC INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY

WHEREAS our Lord Jesus has called us to disciple all language groups, and

WHEREAS, the United States Hispanic population now numbers over 36 million people, accounts for over 13% of the U.S. population, and continues to grow and therefore represents a very large mission field for the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, the LCMS currently only serves approximately 10,000 Hispanics representing about 0.4% of the LCMS membership; and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic Institute of Theology is the only department of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis specifically mandated (Synodical Resolution 10-09A [1977]) to equip people whose dominant language is Spanish for service in parish and ordained ministries; and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic Institute of Theology has been an effective agency preparing more than 235 workers for parish and ordained ministry since 1994 (see Addendum #1, pages 5-8); and

WHEREAS, the Synodical Board for Higher Education Services (BHES) eliminated its funding for the institute; and therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Texas District-LCMS memorialize Synod in Convention to direct the BHES to restore its funding of the Hispanic Institute of Theology.

Rev. Bill Woolsey, Chairman

RESOLUTION 1-03-03

Overtures 1-04, 1-05

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR WORLD MISSIONS

WHEREAS, our Lord Jesus Christ has given His Church the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20); and

WHEREAS, the stated Objectives of Synod as outlined in the Constitution of Synod (Article III. 2, 3) states that Synod will “extend that Gospel witness into all the world”; and

WHEREAS, missions has always been the uniting focus of our Synod’s purpose. In 2002, the Mission Department was instructed to reduce its budget. In 2003, the Department has been asked to reduce its budget again; and

WHEREAS, this reduction in budget has contributed to missionaries being recalled from the mission field; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Texas District in Convention affirm the Board for Mission Services practice of distributing the greatest portion of its budget to direct support of missionaries; and let it be finally

RESOLVED, that the Synodical Board of Directors, together with the Board for Missions Services, identify and publicize annually in official publications of the Synod, the amount of financial support designated for World Missions that will directly support field missionaries and missions apart from administrative and overhead charges.

Rev. Bill Woolsey, Chairman

RESOLUTION 1-04-03

Overture 1-06

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CONCORDIA AUSTIN

WHEREAS, our Lord Jesus Christ has given His Church the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) to baptize and teach; and

WHEREAS, education is one of the uniting focuses of our Synod’s ministry and Concordia Austin is essential to that ministry in our district, educating and providing future church workers for the sake of the Church at large; and

WHEREAS, educational costs have increased, contributing to an overall financially difficult environment for Concordia Austin; and

WHEREAS, the Texas District in Convention passed a resolution (5-2-91) “encouraging each of its congregations to support Concordia directly with annual contributions, aspiring to a challenge level of 2% of their local budgets over and above their regular commitments to the ministries of the District and Synod”; let it be

RESOLVED, that the Texas District continue its practice of designating a percentage of its budget for the direct support of Concordia Austin and so reflect that support to the public in the financial reviews of the District Budget; and let it be finally

RESOLVED, that congregations continue to be encouraged to include a line item in their budgets and/or an annual free will offering for Concordia Austin, not less than 2% of their local budgets.

Rev. Bill Woolsey, Chairman

FLOOR COMMITTEE TWO - ADMINISTRATION

RESOLUTION 2-01-03

RE: Overture 2-01

SUBJECT: TO IMPROVE THE ACCURACY OF THE REPORTING PROCESS OF OFFERINGS TO SYNOD

WHEREAS, figures reported in the Lutheran Annual describing the offering distribution by congregations for work in the District and work through Synod are incomplete; and,

WHEREAS, the information that is used by the Synod is gathered from the annual reporting of the congregations of the Synod who often do not always report their annual activity (for instance, only 75% of the 2001 offerings were reported by congregations and 25% were estimated from past years' reports); and,

WHEREAS, the report of Synod is based upon undesignated missions giving and does not take into consideration those mission gifts that are designated by the District for reporting purposes; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the District President remind and encourage all congregations of the importance of accurate and annual reporting to the District and Synod by means of the annual Statistical Report; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Synod's Office of Statistics and Reports review the manner of tabulation and reporting the statistical information received from the congregations of Synod.

Rev. Dr. John Messmann, Chairman
Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey, Secretary

RESOLUTION 2-03-03

RE: Overtures 2-05, 2-06, 2-07, & 2-08

**SUBJECT: TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF CONGREGATIONAL
OVERTURES AT SYNODICAL CONVENTIONS**

WHEREAS, the mission of the Texas District is to "strengthen congregations," to reach the lost, disciple the saved and . . . "; and

WHEREAS, the strategic plan of the Texas District strongly emphasizes the subservient relationship of District to its congregations; and

WHEREAS, congregations are divinely instituted for the administration of the means of grace, and Synod and its structures are only human institutions; and

WHEREAS, the real work of the Church is accomplished through the administration of the means of grace through congregations; and

WHEREAS, the President of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod has recently stated that he will instruct the floor committees of the next Synodical Convention to prioritize overtures of District Conventions; and

WHEREAS, only congregations and ministers (ordained and commissioned) are members of the Synod (Article V, LCMS Constitution); therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Texas District in convention affirm the importance of congregational overtures to the Synodical Conventions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all congregations of the Synod be invited and encouraged to bring their overtures to the Synodical Convention with the assurance that they will be received, published, and considered; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Texas District 2003 Convention express these concerns of prioritizing memorials to the Synodical President as soon as possible.

Rev. Dr. John Messmann, Chairman
Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey, Secretary

RESOLUTION 2-04-03

RE: Overtures 2-09 & 2-10

SUBJECT: TO STUDY THE FORMATION AND FUNCTION OF COMMITTEES ON THE SYNODICAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS

WHEREAS, there is no provision in the LCMS Handbook on the structure and function of committees which are formed for a Synodical convention; and

WHEREAS, there is a provision in the LCMS Handbook that District Conventions shall be governed by the Bylaws adopted by the Synod for its convention; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of Synod specify that the convention itself have an equal representation of lay and pastoral delegates; and

WHEREAS, current Synodical commissions and boards are made up of ministers of the Gospel (both ordained and commissioned) and lay people; and,

WHEREAS, there is an expressed opinion questioning how committees are to be formed at Synodical and District Conventions, and how the committees are to perform their function; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the President of the Texas District form a task force to study the formation and function of committees on the District level and to report to the next Texas District Convention; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the questions of formation and function of committees formed for a Synodical convention be referred to the standing *pro tem* Synodical Commission on Structure.

Rev. Dr. John Messmann, Chairman
Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey, Secretary

RESOLUTION 2-05-03

RE: Overture 2-11

SUBJECT: TO REVIEW PROCEDURES IN FILING CHARGES AGAINST MEMBERS OF SYNOD

WHEREAS, God's Word instructs us "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3, 4; and

WHEREAS, one of the Objectives of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is to "provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the maintenance of their rights" Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Article III. 9; and

WHEREAS, God's Word provides clear direction in handling disputes when it states, "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother" Matthew 18:15; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod meeting in Convention petition the Synod at its next Convention to clarify current procedures in filing charges against members and officers of synod; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such review seek to find ways whereby God's direction in Matthew 18 would be followed so that official charges may not be filed unless the complainant has personally spoken face-to-face with the one accused (as required by Bylaw VIII); and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the attached list of procedures be considered as guidelines for the newly drafted procedures.

Suggested List of Procedures:

1. The offended party must notify the person perceived to have given offense about the problem, and state that he/she/they are initiating the Matthew 18 procedure.
2. The offended party must travel to the location where the other party lives in order to meet with him/her in person in order to try to resolve the problem. This must be done within three months of step one. This meeting will involve only the offending and the offended parties.
3. The party perceived to have given the offense must do everything possible to meet with the offended party as soon as possible in order to resolve the issue.
4. If the situation is resolved, then no further action is necessary other than giving praise and thanks to our gracious God. If the situation is not resolved in this first meeting, then the two parties shall be required to send a written report of their meeting to their District President(s) in which they will state both where they agreed and where they disagreed. They will also be required to meet at least twice more in order to try to resolve the problem. Each of these meetings must be held within three months of the previous meeting.

5. If additional meetings beyond the initial one are held, then the District President(s) of both parties must be notified within 10 days, and he/she/they are strongly advised to send representatives to any additional meetings solely for the purpose of observation, paying special attention to the attitudes expressed by the two parties.
6. After any additional meetings, both of the initial parties, as well as the observers, will be required to send written reports to their District Presidents(s) within 10 days after the meetings, and copies must be sent to all who were in attendance.
7. In the event that the above process was not successful in resolving the issue, then the offended party must select one or two of his/her peers to accompany him/her when he/she goes to meet with the other party. The meeting must take place no later than three months after the latest previous meeting. Regardless of the outcome, written reports must be sent to their District President(s) within 10 days, with copies mailed to all in attendance. The District President(s) are strongly encouraged to have representatives at this meeting also.
8. In the event that this meeting is not successful in resolving the problem, then the offended part may file formal charges against the offending party.

Rev. Dr. John Messmann, Chairman
Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey, Secretary

RESOLUTION 2-06-03 - Amended

RE: Overtures 2-22 & 2-23

SUBJECT: MODIFYING BYLAW 2.27a OF THE BYLAWS OF SYNOD

WHEREAS, the "Constitution of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod: defines the existence of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, its Confessions, objectives, powers, membership, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the "Bylaws of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod: define relationships within and through the Synod, membership, Synodical and District organization, Circuits and conferences, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 2.27, "Commencing an action to Terminate Congregational Membership "or Individual Membership" defines the process which could lead to the expulsion of a member of Synod, and,

WHEREAS, Paragraph 2.27a reads, "When, either by a written complaint of any person

or by his own personal knowledge, facts which could lead to the expulsion of a member from the Synod under Article XIII of the Constitution are made known to the District President who has ecclesiastical supervision of such member, the District President shall 1. "thoroughly investigate whether the allegations can be substantiated...." and,

WHEREAS, the words "any person" in this paragraph provide opportunity for a non-member of Synod or even a non-Christian to file "a written complaint" against a member of Synod, and,

WHEREAS, this written complaint effects the District President to "thoroughly investigate whether the allegations can be substantiated" (Bylaw 2.27 a.1.), and ,

WHEREAS, Bylaw 2.25a states, "When formal proceedings have been commenced against a member of Synod (individual or congregation), under the procedure set forth in Bylaw 2.27, which may lead to expulsion from the Synod under Article XIII of the Constitution, the member shall have suspended status." "If such member was on restricted status at the commencement of formal proceedings, the restricted status shall become suspended status," and ,

WHEREAS, this policy allows someone outside of Synod, with or without just cause, the power to submit a written document bringing charges against a member of Synod and in so doing deleteriously affect the life or lives of members of Synod, by potentially subjecting him/her/it to unnecessary and unwarranted stress and duress, and

WHEREAS, this creates the effect of being guilty until being found innocent (if that be the case); therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the Texas District in convention memorialize the Synod to change the wording of "2.27a" to delete the words "any person" and be replaced with the words, "a member of Synod or a member in good standing of a congregation of Synod," and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the Texas District in convention recommends that the LCMS in its next triennial convention adopt this change.

1. This resolution does not address the issue of a member of Synod bringing false charges against another member of Synod, but it does address the issue of a non-member of Synod egregiously or otherwise bringing charges against a member of Synod.
2. It also may be the case that a non-member of Synod may be aware of some behavior of a member of Synod that if known by the District president would lead to restricted or suspended status. If this information is brought to the attention of the District president, the phrase "or by his own personal knowledge" would allow him to take action.]

Rev. Dr. John Messmann, Chairman
Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey, Secretary

RESOLUTION 2-07-03

RE: Overture 2-13

**SUBJECT: TO CHANGE RESTRICTIONS CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP ON
SYNODICAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

WHEREAS, Synodical Bylaw 3.181.a states concerning the make up of The Synodical Board of Directors "No more than one of these 13 [members] may be elected from one district"; and

WHEREAS, there are no restrictions for membership on the board of any other synod-wide entity (e.g., Concordia Historical Institute, Concordia Publishing House, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod Foundation); and

WHEREAS, in 1989, the Handbook of Synod read, "It shall consist of 15 voting members... No more than one of the four ordained ministers may be elected from any one District. No more than one of the eight laypersons may be elected from any one District..."; and

WHEREAS, the previous less restrictive bylaw limitation had served the Synod well for many years; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable that the best qualified candidates for office be elected; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Texas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod memorialize the 2004 Synodical Convention to amend Bylaw 3.181.a. to read as follows:

"... No more than one of the four elected ordained ministers may be from any one District. No more than one of the eight elected Laypersons may be from any one District."

Rev. Dr. John Messman, Chairman
Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey, Secretary

RESOLUTION 2-08-03

RE: Overtures 2-17, 2-18, 2-19, 2-24

**SUBJECT: TO REAFFIRM THE CONGREGATION'S AUTONOMY IN CALLING
ITS OWN PASTOR**

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Synod states "In its relation to its members the Synod is not an ecclesiastical government exercising legislative or coercive powers, and with respect to the individual congregation's right of self-government it is but an advisory body"; and

WHEREAS, the Synod's Bylaws state that "The Synod functions *in support of its* member congregations by providing assistance as congregations conduct their ministries locally" (italics included in Bylaws); and

WHEREAS, Bylaw 2.45 states that: "congregations shall seek the advice of the respective District President when Calling ordained or commissioned ministers"; and

WHEREAS, congregations of Synod voluntarily agree to limit their freedom to Call pastors who are ordained in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth in the Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, congregations are not restricted by Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions or the Constitution and Bylaws of Synod from calling anyone who is a pastor in good standing on the official roster of Synod; and

WHEREAS, some congregations misunderstand the process of collecting the names of and the calling of pastoral candidates; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that congregations continue to follow the procedure of Bylaw 2.45 by seeking the advice of the respective District President when calling ordained or commissioned ministers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2003 Texas District Convention reaffirms the right of congregations to call pastors in good standing from the roster of Synod without restriction or limitation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the District President and the Circuit Counselors of the Texas District continue to faithfully guide vacant congregations in the process of collecting the names of and the calling of pastoral candidates; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that congregations of the Texas District be urged to follow the prescribed Synodical channels for advice and counsel before extending calls to church workers.

Rev. Dr. John Messmann, Chairman
Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey, Secretary

RESOLUTION 2-09-03

RE: Overture 2-21

SUBJECT: TO ESTABLISH A CONSULTANT ON NON-CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, in recent years, there has been a growth of new unchristian groups (Wicca, Brotherhood of the White Temple, Church of Satan, etc.) and the re-emergence/re-vitalization of the Masons Lodge;

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod has always declared itself opposed to societies, cults or any other organization of an unchristian character (*2001 Handbook*, page 74); and

WHEREAS, "it is the solemn, sacred, and God-given duty of every pastor properly to instruct his people concerning the sinfulness of all organizations that

1. Explicitly or implicitly deny the Holy Trinity, the deity of Christ, or the vicarious atonement;
2. Promise spiritual light apart from that revealed in the Holy Scripture;
3. Attach spiritual or eternal rewards to the works or virtues of men; and/or
4. Embrace ideologies or principals that clearly violate and express teaching of the Holy Scriptures concerning the relationship of men to one another" (*2001 Handbook*, pg. 75); and

WHEREAS, The Texas District for many years had a Commission on Fraternal Organizations, which was then succeeded by an Ordained Minister serving as a Consultant on Fraternal Organizations; and

WHEREAS, The Texas District at the 1997 Lubbock Convention omitted this increasingly important position from its new Constitution and By-Laws; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 2003 Texas District Convention re-establish the unpaid position of Consultant on Fraternal Organizations to serve as a resource for congregations and pastors; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this position be renamed "Consultant on Non-Christian Organizations" to better fit the expanding scope of such organizations.

Rev. Dr. John Messmann, Chairman

Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey, Secretary

In consultation with the Theology and Church Relations Floor Committee

RESOLUTION 2-10-03 - Amended

RE: Overture 2-14

SUBJECT: TO REVISE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

WHEREAS, the Constitution and By-Laws have served the organizational needs of God's church we call The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for over 100 years; and,

WHEREAS, multiple amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws have occurred over the years, each well intended and designed to address a change needed at the date of its adoption; and,

WHEREAS, the organizational needs of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod have changed since the Constitution and By-Laws were adopted and will continue to change; and,

WHEREAS, the Constitution and By-Laws, although not intended, have become complex resulting in an organizational structure that is perceived to be inefficient and bureaucratic; and,

WHEREAS, a lack of membership growth, accelerating conflict throughout our Synodical family and dwindling financial support to the synod has been attributed to this organizational structure; therefore be it

RESOLVED, a new organizational structure needs to be developed that maximizes our time and effort for proclaiming Jesus to a hurting world while minimizing our time and effort on organizational matters; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Texas District ask the next Synodical Convention of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod to create:

1. A special Constitutional Task Force of eleven people selected as follows:

- i. 4 members (2 lay persons & 2 pastors) appointed by the Synodical President.
- ii. 4 members (2 lay persons & 2 pastors) appointed by the Synodical Board of Directors.
- iii. 1 Pastor, 1 Commissioned Minister and 1 Layperson elected by the 2004 Synodical Convention.

2. The Task Force be charged to:

- a. Draft and present to the congregations a proposed revised Synodical

Constitution and By-Laws by January, 1, 2009.

- b. b. Secure widespread Congregational input as well as input from all Synodical entities and offices during the drafting process.
- c. Present a new proposed Synodical Constitution and By-Laws to the 2010 Convention for action.
- d. Consider the following objectives:
 - ❖ Maximize organizational time and talent to proclaim the Great Commission and minimize organizational time and talents to internal organizational matters.
 - ❖ Streamlined decision making.
 - ❖ Minimize layers of organizational bureaucracy.
 - ❖ Create fair congregational representation & avoid minority control.
- e. All Task Force decisions to be made by simple majority vote. All eleven Task Force Members have voting privileges.
 - 1. The Synodical Board of Directors is directed to allocate sufficient financial resources to support the work of the Task Force.
 - 2. The Task Force will be disbanded at the conclusion of the 2010 Synodical convention.

Rev. Dr. John Messmann, Chairman
Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey, Secretary

Substitute Resolution 2-11-03-A

RE: Overture 2-20

**Subject: TO ASK THE SYNOD IN CONVENTION TO AFFIRM RULING 02-2282
OF THE COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2002, the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters issued its opinion 02-2282, President's Duty to Call up for Review. It concluded, on the basis of careful and thorough review of Bylaw 2.27 and the Synod's Dispute Resolution process (chapter VIII of the Synodical Bylaws), that a President of the Synod has responsibility to act in the event that he were to become aware, before announcement of a decision of the Dispute Resolution

Panel under 8.09 c 4 d, that an investigating officer has misstated a doctrinal position of the church or acted in violation of the Constitution, Bylaws, or resolutions of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, the Commission cited Article XI B 1-4 of the Synod's Constitution, adding: The President's right and/or responsibility to call up for review an action of an investigation officer carrying out the responsibilities of Bylaw 2.27 c flows from his constitutional responsibilities and powers; and

WHEREAS, some in Synod are questioning this ruling, as to whether or not this action was proper; and,

WHEREAS, the actions of the President of Synod were questioned and challenged by an appeal to the Commission on Constitutional Matters; and

WHEREAS, the actions of the President of the Synod were sustained by the ruling of the Commission on Constitutional Matters, as well as by the Dispute Resolution Panel (the ruling of the Synodical officer which was called up for review was overturned by the Dispute Resolution Pane); and

WHEREAS, we support the President in the exercise of his duties, and wish to encourage the members of Synod to express their support of the actions of the President of Synod in this matter; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Texas District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod memorialize Synod in Convention to affirm the opinion 02-2282 of the Commission on Constitutional Matters.

Rev. Dr. John Messman, Chairman
Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey, Secretary

RESOLUTION 2-12-03

RE: TO DECLINE OVERTURE

Whereas the floor committee considered all overtures assigned to it and concluded that this overture could not be considered or passed on with any authority at District Convention; therefore, the following overture was respectfully declined for the reason given:

Overture	Subject	Reason
2-16	To Increase District Support of the Synod–To Commission A Study	The Texas District is a leader district in support of Synod's

as to How the Texas District Budget
May be Reduced

mission and ministry

RESOLUTION A 2-03-Amended

RE: Overtures 2-03, 2-04, 2-12, 2-15;
Resolutions 2-04-03, 2-05-03

Overture/ Resolution	Subject	Referred To:
2-03, 2-04	Overture to Increase the Number of Pastors Graduating from LCMS Seminaries and to Conduct A Survey To Determine the Cause of Pastors Leaving the Ministry Before Retirement	Synodical Commission on Structure
2-12	To Provide More Equitable Representation and Voting Privileges at Conventions and Study Other Organizational Matters	Synodical Commission on Structure
2-15	To Avoid Centralization	Synodical Commission on Structure
2-04-03	To Study the Formation and Function of Committees on the Synodical and District Levels	Synodical Commission on Structure
2-05-03	To Review Procedures in Filing Charges Against Members of Synod	President's Blue Ribbon Commission

FLOOR COMMITTEE THREE - THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS

RESOLUTION 03-01-03 AMENDED

RE: Overtures 03-01, 03-04, & 03-09

**SUBJECT: TO CLARIFY THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN "ALTAR AND PULPIT
FELLOWSHIP" AND PRAYER**

PREAMBLE: The events of recent history have brought to the forefront issues within our church which have been left unaddressed for many years. In the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center our nation was gripped with fear and as a people we sought understanding. This led many people to turn to God for guidance. The event which was held in Yankee Stadium, "A Prayer for America" sought to provide comfort to a hurting nation. Within our church it has ignited a controversy which must be addressed if unity is to be maintained in The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. The following Memorial seeks to accomplish this goal.

WHEREAS, there has arisen much conflict throughout Synod over the use of prayer in various arenas of life, and as a result of this, much confusion has resulted among members of Synod which has troubled consciences and created division; and

WHEREAS, Synod has agreed to "walk together" in our practice, which is based on the pure Word of God is our doctrine and its expression; and

WHEREAS, the doctrine and practice of "Altar and Pulpit Fellowship" has been clearly defined as fellowship or *koinonia* in a common Altar and Pulpit. Having unity in doctrine, the Synod has practiced fellowship at the pulpit and at the altar. Defined as such, "Altar and Pulpit Fellowship" is centered in The Divine Service, that service in which God (the Divine) serves His people with forgiveness, life, and salvation, and

WHEREAS, the Divine Service is centered and grounded in the Gospel, present in Word and Sacrament, and not in prayer since prayer is not a "means of grace," and

WHEREAS, prayer is an expression of faith, and

WHEREAS, examples from Scripture reveal Christians praying in the presence of non-Christian people, (The Christians in Acts attended Temple worship after the day of Pentecost, Acts 2:46). It is to be understood that the worship among the Jews at the Temple included prayer; Paul attended Synagogue services after his conversion, services which included preaching, teaching, and prayer (Acts 9:19-22; 13:5; 13:14, 44-49; 14:1; 16:13 in this verse Paul and Silas specifically go to a place where people are known to gather for prayer; 16:16; 17:1-3; 17:10; 18:4; 19:8; 21:26 in this passage Paul and others take part in a Jewish ritual which would have included prayer); and

WHEREAS, doctrinal unity within Christendom is a goal of Synod, this is only an outward unity. True unity is present among all who believe in Christ through faith in the heart born of the Holy Spirit, and

WHEREAS, Jesus has revealed in His High Priestly prayer that "oneness" among His people is the work of God and not the work of men, (John 17), and

WHEREAS, in Ephesians 4:1-6 the Apostle Paul speaks of unity among all who believe in Christ; and

WHEREAS, it calls upon the Church to testify to her Lord and Savior whenever given opportunity (*Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. 2 Timothy 4:2*), thus motivating our pastors, workers, and lay members to participate in such events for the sake of witnessing to Jesus Christ; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Synod maintain a clear understanding of “Altar and Pulpit Fellowship” as the doctrine and practice which revolves around Word and Sacrament, and be it further

RESOLVED, that members of Synod be encouraged to remain faithful to our doctrines and practices drawn from them, and be it further

RESOLVED, that relationships and interactions with others, outside of Synod, may include prayer with other Christians which does not constitute Altar and Pulpit fellowship; and be it further

RESOLVED, that where instances of prayer occur outside the context of The Divine Service, a clear and precise witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ shall be given; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Texas District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod request the Commission on Theology and Church Relations to study the issue of declaring a truly Christian-Lutheran apologetic in pluralistic settings; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commission on Theology and Church Relations be asked to develop a set of guidelines for what determines a true witness to the faith in view of this cultures’ pluralistic frame of reference; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the adopted guidelines be communicated to the members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, along with guidelines for accepting or declining invitations to participate in civic events and prayer/memorial services.

Rev. John Nunes, Chairman
Rev. Russell Nebhut, Secretary
Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations

RESOLUTION 03-02-03

RE: Overture 03-14

SUBJECT: TO RESPECT AND TRUST EACH OTHER

WHEREAS, in these turbulent times, Synodical officials, pastors, congregations,

and individual Christians are often called upon to make difficult decisions in complex and critical situations; and

WHEREAS, the Word of God is the Christian's only rule and norm for all faith and life; and

WHEREAS, because of our sinfulness the application of the Word of God to some circumstances may be difficult to determine; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we encourage each other to approach such situations with prayer (Philippians 4:6), the study of God's Word, the counsel of our brothers and sisters in Christ, and the desire to act boldly and faithfully on behalf of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:12-17); and be it further

RESOLVED, that we put the best construction on each decision made by local pastors, congregations, and officials in these difficult situations and seek to avoid negative judgments and charges against each other as far as Scripture allows; be it further

RESOLVED, that when we disagree with the decisions of a pastor, congregation, or official in such situations, we encourage one another to address those differences personally and privately before making our disagreements public or bringing formal charges against each other (Matthew 18:15-18); be it further

RESOLVED, when upon reflection and/or consultation with fellow Christians such actions are determined to be not fully in accord with the Word of God, that Christians seek forgiveness and pursue true reconciliation with one another; and be it finally

RESOLVED, where true disagreements exist, Christians seek to reconcile their differences by means of fraternal discussion based on the Word of God.

Rev. John Nunes, Chairman
Rev. Russell Nebhut, Secretary
Floor Committee on Theology and Church Relations

RESOLUTION 03-03-03 AMENDED

RE: Overture 03-03

**SUBJECT: AFFIRMING THE ACTION OF THE LAST CONVENTION
(RESOLUTION 3-07a)**

WHEREAS the Great Commission from our Lord Jesus urges us to reach out with the Gospel, even to the ends of the earth; and

WHEREAS, in faithfulness to the vision that Jesus Christ placed before him, St. Paul took his witness into the forums of his day; and

WHEREAS, the 2001 convention of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod adopted Resolution 3-07a which affirms in part:

“Pastors, teachers, and other officially recognized church workers are often asked to participate in activities outside of their own and other LCMS congregations. Some of these are civic events. Offering prayers, speaking, and reading Scripture at events sponsored by governments, public schools and volunteer organizations would be a problem if the organization in charge restricted a Christian witness. For instance, if an invitation requires a pastor to pray to God without mentioning Jesus, he cannot in good conscience accept. Without such a restriction, a Lutheran pastor may for valid and good reason participate in civic affairs such as an inauguration, graduation or a Right to Life activity. These occasions may provide opportunity to witness to the Gospel. Pastors may have honest differences of opinion about whether or to what extent it is appropriate or helpful to participate in these or similar civic events. In these cases charity must prevail.”

WHEREAS, considerable disagreement has arisen concerning the application of this resolution and the document upon which it is based as a result of recent events, be it therefore

RESOLVED, the Texas District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod affirms the action of the 2001 Synodical convention (Resolution 3-07a), and be it further

RESOLVED, that all members of the Texas District continue to study the implications and applications of the CTCR document, “The Lutheran Understanding of Church Fellowship,” and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we ask our pastors and church leaders, while remaining faithful to our doctrinal and fellowship concerns, to continue reaching out publicly with clear messages of God’s love in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. John Nunes, Chairman
Rev. Russell Nebhut, Secretary

RESOLUTION 03-04-03 Amended

RE: Overtures 03-03, 03-07, 03-08, & 03-10

**SUBJECT: TO OFFER RESPECT, HONOR, AND PRAYER FOR ALL
SYNODICAL, DISTRICT, AND CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS**

WHEREAS, God's Word instructs us "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves . . . Live in harmony with one another." Romans 12:10, 16; and

WHEREAS, since the last convention our synod has been faced with challenging and difficult theological issues; and

WHEREAS, Paul and Barnabas "had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company" Acts 15:39, yet they still went forward with the mission of the church; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther in his explanation to the Fourth Commandment directs us to "honor, serve, obey, love, and cherish those in authority over us" and in the Eighth Commandment wrote that in dealings with others we are to "defend him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything"; and

WHEREAS, there has been a great deal of public unkind and negative comments about and directed toward the entire leadership of the LCMS since the last synodical convention; and

WHEREAS, our beloved Synod has long struggled with the sin of failing to disagree respectfully and has failed to afford our leaders the respect due their offices and positions; and

WHEREAS, the previously mentioned sinful conduct has done great harm to the Gospel proclamation and the mission of the church; therefore be it

RESOLVED, we do corporately and individually repent of our sins against the fourth and eighth commandments; and be it further

RESOLVED, we vow with the help of God to honor these commandments; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that all members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod be encouraged to maintain proper respect and honor for our called and elected church leaders, remembering them regularly in our prayers.

Rev. John Nunes, Chairman
Rev. Russell Nebhut, Secretary

RESOLUTION 03-05-03

RE: Overture 03-15

**SUBJECT: "TO VIGOROUSLY MAKE KNOWN THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN
WORD AND DEED WITHIN OUR CHURCHES, COMMUNITIES,
AND THE WORLD"**

WHEREAS, the Church exists in a world where the population is expanding rapidly; and

WHEREAS, increasing urbanization is an urgent dynamic; and

WHEREAS, secularism continues to grow in its appeal to people of all nations and cultures; and

WHEREAS, the Church in the United States is uniquely positioned with abundant resources to carry the Gospel throughout the world in both word and deed; and

WHEREAS, a common indifference to Christ's Word and work continues worldwide; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod reaffirm its mission: "To vigorously make known the love of Christ in word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world." While "contending for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3) – as articulated in the Lutheran Confessions, we shall:

Search out new and innovative methods making use of new technologies and methods of communication.

Seek to overcome every obstacle which hinders the proclamation of the Gospel.

Actively seek common ground with other Christians in the realm of human care in order to share the love of Christ with our world.

Pray daily that the power of the Word may work in the hearts and lives of all people.

Rev. John Nunes, Chairman
Rev. Russell Nebhut, Secretary

RESOLUTION 03-06-03 AMENDED

RE: Overture 03-05

SUBJECT: TO UPHOLD THE DOCTRINE OF CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

WHEREAS, the theology of the Lutheran Church is centered in the theology of the cross, "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2), and not in traditionalism, legalism, or prescribed and practiced pieties, etc. (SA II, 1); and

WHEREAS, all Christians are royal priests (1 Pet. 2:9) and possess the keys of the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 16:19), and all things belong to them (1 Cor. 3:21-23; cf. TPPP 11, p. 321, Tappert); and

WHEREAS, we believe, teach, and confess that “we do not concede to the papists (the papist bishops) that they are the church, for they are not. Nor shall we pay any attention to what they command or forbid in the name of the church, for, thank God, a seven-year-old child knows what the church is, namely, holy believers and sheep who hear the voice of their Shepherd” (FC, SD X, 19; SA III, XII, 1, 2) and “holiness does not consist of surplices, tonsures, albs, or other ceremonies of theirs which they have invented over and above the Holy Scriptures, but it consists of the Word of God and true faith” (SA III, XII, 3); and

WHEREAS, we believe, teach, and confess that “no one should assume lordship or authority over the church, nor burden the church with traditions, nor let anybody’s authority count for more than the Word of God” (FC, SD X, 21; TPPP, 11); and

WHEREAS, in regard to all indifferent matters, including human-ordered customs, traditions, ceremonies, church usages, rites, rubrics, liturgies, buildings, architecture, church administration, the form of church government, and so on, “we believe teach and confess that the community of God (Gemeinde, ecclesia) of God in every place and at every time has the right, authority, and power to change, to reduce, or to increase ceremonies according to its circumstances, as long as it does so without frivolity and offense but in an orderly and appropriate way, as at any time may seem most profitable, beneficial and salutary for good order, Christian discipline, evangelical decorum, and the edification of the church. Paul instructs us how we can with a good conscience give in and yield to the weak in faith in such external matters of indifference (Rom. 14) and demonstrates it by his own example (Acts 16:3; 21:26; 1 Cor. 9:10)” (FC, SD X, 9); and

WHEREAS, “we believe, teach and confess that at a time of confession, as when enemies of the Word of God desire to suppress the pure doctrine of the Holy Gospel, the entire community of God, yes, every individual Christian, and especially the ministers of the Word as the leaders of the community of God, are obligated to confess openly, not only by words but also through their deeds and actions, the true doctrine and all that pertains to it, according to the Word of God – nor should we tolerate the imposition of such ceremonies – in order to undermine the genuine worship of God” (FC, SD X, 10; also refer to AC VII, XV, XVI, Apology XV, XXVIII, SA III, XV); therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Texas District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in Convention affirm that human ordinances, traditions, commands, etc., are not the true worship of God and are not to be imposed or coerced (conformity with ceremonies and matters of indifference are not to be demanded) on the people of God as necessary (FC, SD X 26, 27) and to the weak in faith; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we affirm that the "community of God" does have the "liberty to use one or more ceremonies at any time and place, according to its circumstances, as may in Christian liberty be most beneficial to the church" (FC, SD X, 30) and to the weak in faith; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all congregations, pastors, educators, church officials and the like be encouraged not to "condemn each other because of a difference in ceremonies, when in Christian liberty one uses fewer or more of them, as long as they are otherwise agreed in doctrine and in all its articles and are also agreed concerning the right use of the holy sacraments" (FC, SD X, 31; also refer to AC VII); and be it further

RESOLVED, that all congregations, pastors, educators, and District institutions and officials be encouraged to honor and uphold this doctrine of Christian liberty (Gal. 2:4, 5; 5:1); and be it further

RESOLVED that all congregations, pastors, educators, and District institutions and officials be encouraged to exercise their Christian freedom in a manner which is not frivolous and offensive but orderly and appropriate (FC, SD X, 9); and be it finally

RESOLVED, that The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod gathered in convention in 2004 be asked to adopt this same resolution for implementation within our "walking together" in Synod as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Rev. John Nunes, Chairman
Rev. Russell Nebhut, Secretary

RESOLUTION 03-07-03

RE: Memorials 03-18, 03-19, 03-20

**SUBJECT: TO CONFESS OPENLY OUR COMMON FAITH IN THE
DOCTRINE OF SALVATION THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST
ALONE**

WHEREAS, in the days and months following the New York City event called *A Prayer for America*, the secular media addressed the controversy in the LCMS in very misleading ways. Of primary concern is the fact that some commentators who are inclined toward religious pluralism and universalism defended Dr. Benke for his "religious tolerance," and condemned his opponents for holding to exclusivist claims for Christ and Christianity. By presenting the case this way they assumed a dichotomy in the Missouri Synod that is non-existent. A few examples of this false understanding of the real issues in the LCMS will suffice to prove the point; and

WHEREAS, Bill O'Reilly, in a program in which he defended the participation of Dr. Benke and condemned his opponents said: "*Jesus was inclusive, and religions that*

exclude in my mind are not charitable and not following Jesus I think He likes the Hindus. I think He thinks they are O. K."; and

WHEREAS, *New York Times* reporter, Daniel Waken, misquoted President Linderman, as saying, "he expressed particular disapproval of the suggestion that Allah, the God of Islam, was somehow inferior to the God of Christianity."; and

WHEREAS, all of these and others are defending Dr. Benke's participation for exactly the wrong reasons. Dr. Benke himself has confessed that Jesus is the only way to salvation and that the Triune God is the only true God. He is thereby as "guilty" of "religious bigotry" (as defined by religious pluralists and universalists) as any of his opponents. Dr. Kieschnick also has strongly defended the doctrine that salvation is found in no other name than Jesus (note his excellent sermon at the Concordia Austin Spring graduation, 2002). President Linderman has publicly disavowed the quote attributed to him in the *New York Times* and confessed Christ as the only Savior of the world. The following resolution is not intended to divide the Convention but to prevent division where division does not exist, and to proclaim the truth of the Gospel unanimously before the world. On the central matter of the Gospel's teaching that salvation is found in the incarnation, life, death, and resurrection of Christ alone we are marvelously united and confess with one voice. We ought to share together either the insult or praise that confession brings from the world; and

WHEREAS, the controversy in the LCMS regarding Dr. Benke's participation in *A Prayer for America* has led many within and outside the church to believe that our Synod is divided on the issues of whether the Triune God is the only true God, Jesus Christ is the only Savior of the world, and that those who do not believe in Christ's vicarious sacrifice for the sin of the world abide under the wrath of God; and

WHEREAS, all the major parties in this dispute are in full agreement on those central doctrines; and

WHEREAS, the secular media has fostered misunderstanding regarding our clear and united confession of these doctrines, including a lamentable misquote and misrepresentation of the position of our own District President; and

WHEREAS, the misconceptions and misrepresentations fostered in the secular media have damaged the Synod's clear confession of the Gospel; therefore be it

RESOLVED, when addressing the media all clergy, officials, and church workers of District and Synod be encouraged to consult with District and/or Synod's Public Relations staff members.

RESOLVED, that the 2003 Convention of the Texas District openly, boldly, and with one accord, confess the truth that the only true God is the Triune God as confessed in the Nicene Creed; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2003 Convention of the Texas District openly, boldly, and with one accord, confess the truth that there is only one Mediator between God and men, Jesus Christ, who fulfilled the Law of God in the stead of the world, and who died as the all sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the world; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2003 Convention of the Texas District openly, boldly, and with one accord, confess the truth that only those who place their trust in Christ as Savior are delivered from the wrath of God, and that all who remain in unbelief, rejecting the atonement God has provided in Jesus, are without God and without hope in the world, abiding in death; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Texas District appeal to the Synodical Convention in 2004 to speak as clearly and boldly to these issues as we have done.

Rev. John Nunes, Chairman
Rev. Russell Nebhut, Secretary

RESOLUTION 03-08-03 AMENDED

SUBJECT: TO STUDY THE GUIDELINES FOR ETHICAL CONDUCT OF CALLED SERVANTS OF THE GOSPEL OF THE TEXAS DISTRICT OF THE LCMS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DISTRICT'S TASK FORCE ON ETHICS

WHEREAS, there has never been an official document in the Texas District that provides guidelines and directions for the ethical conduct of called servants of the Gospel of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, the District President appointed a task force to write such guidelines.

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod recommended this document for inclusion in the convention workbook; and

WHEREAS, it would be helpful for these guidelines to be commended by the Convention to the Texas District for study and guidance that called church workers may be given clear direction concerning their conduct and life; be it therefore,

RESOLVED, that the attached Guidelines for Ethical Conduct of Called Servants of the Gospel of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (Addendum #2, pages 33-53) be commended for study by the congregations, the ordained, as well as commissioned ministers of the Texas District, and be it further

RESOLVED, that suggestions for revisions be directed to the Office of District President prior to July 2004.

Rev. John Nunes, Chairman
Rev. Russell Nebhut, Secretary

RESOLUTION 3-09-03 AMENDED

RE: TO DECLINE OVERTURE

“OVERTURE TO REMOVE AUXILIARY STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN LAYMAN'S LEAGUE”

WHEREAS, the floor Committee considered all overtures assigned to it and concluded that this overture should not be considered by this District Convention. Therefore the committee recommends this overture be declined.

Rev. John Nunes, Chairman
Rev. Russell Nebhut, Secretary

RESOLUTION A -03-03

Rationale

The following overture requests action that is the responsibility of another board, commission, or individual to study and to implement, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the following overture be placed in Resolution A for referral to the District President.

Overture 03-02 To Encourage Unity

District President in
Consultation with the Council of Presidents

Rev. John Nunes, Chairman
Rev. Russell Nebhut, Secretary

RESOLUTION B - 03-03

Rationale

Over the years the Texas District and/or The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in convention has spoken to many issues. At times, one or the other has found it necessary to restate its position because of misunderstanding or because there was an expressed desire to change the stated position.

It is clearly not physically possible to debate and discuss, in detail, every issue that has been decided in one or more conventions of our District or Synod, or a resulting task force. Again at this convention a number of issues have been presented through overtures to which our District and/or Synod in convention or a resulting task force has previously spoken. After careful consideration of these matters it appears that such is the case with the following overtures.

Resolved, That petitioners offering the following overtures be referred to previous convention action or resulting task force activity as indicated:

Number	Subject	Reference
Overture 03-06	To Re-emphasize Proper Relationship Between The Priesthood Of All Believers And The Office Of Public Ministry	Synod Conv. 2001 Res. #7-17A
Overture 03-09	To Declare It Sinful To Join In Prayer With Those Who Deny Jesus Christ Is The Only Way To The True God	2001 Synod Conv Resol.3-07A and CTRC Article, "The Lutheran Understanding Church Fellowship
Overture 03-11	To Clarify That Letting Individuals From Other Denominations Decide Whether They May Commune At Our Altars Is Not Practicing Close(D) Communion	Reference 2000 Texas District Conv. Resol. 3-03-00A
Overture 03-13	To Reaffirm The Priesthood Of All Believers	Syn. Conv 2001 Res. #7-17A
Overture 03-16	To Memorialize Synod Concerning	Syn. Conv.
Overture 03-17	ELCA/LCMS Relationship	2001Resol. 3-31A

Rev. John Nunes, Chairman
Rev. Russell Nebhut, Secretary

MOTION FROM CONCERNED PASTORS AND LAYPERSONS

RE: TO RETURN KEYPADS TO YOUTH DELEGATES

WHEREAS, the youth delegates know how to turn in a registration card, unlike other voting delegates, and

WHEREAS, the youth delegates are registered voters, and

WHEREAS, this is going to be a long Convention if the youth cannot vote, and

WHEREAS, the you now have no say in the Texas District; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the keypads be returned to the youth delegates that they may have an active participation in the Convention, and be it finally

RESOLVED, if the Convention is unable to provide voting keypads for the youth delegates, that the District pick up the tab for the youth to eat dinner for the next two evenings.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS AND REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

THIS TEXAS DISTRICT IN HIS CONSTITUTION

ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE

VIII

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS AND REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS AND REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

2003 TEXAS DISTRICT LC-MS CONVENTION

ATTENDANCE COUNT		Final Report - 10:00 a.m. Sunday (6/15/03)				
Clergy Voting		242				
Lay Voting		253				
Total Voting		495				
Page		16				
Clergy Advisory		23				
Clergy Retired		12				
Educator Advisory		26				
Educator Retired		4				
Committee		7				
District Official		11				
District Staff		14				
Guest		166				
Office Staff		2				
Synod Official		2				
Vicar		4				
Presenter		3				
Youth Delegates		16				
	Total		801			

There were 85 pre-registered who did not attend, for a total registration of 886!

There are some anomalies because some individuals fit several categories. However, they are only counted once. For example, Committee members who were also Clergy Voting were counted in Clergy Voting. Some individuals were registered as District Staff who perhaps could have been in Office Staff. We were not clear on some of those positions, but no individual was included in two categories.

There were also 44 name tags given to vendors / exhibitors present. They are not included in this total. There were some exhibitors who also fit one of these categories, for example "Clergy Retired" or "Educator Advisory". They are counted in the Convention Attendance total in their respective categories.

Respectfully submitted, with great joy!

Gil Franke, Registration Coordinator
2003 TX DIST LC-MS Convention

IX MILESTONES

MILESTONES

Church Worker anniversaries in the triennium prior to the Convention year are observed at District Conventions. We begin with the 25th anniversary of ordination or commissioning and go up in multiples of five.

PASTORS' ANNIVERSARIES

65th Anniversary

Arthur Graf
Edwin Lange

Albert Lindemann
Paul Tomasovic

60th Anniversary

Louis Pabor
Norbert Roschke

Paul Strickert
W.H. Wetzstein

55th Anniversary

Melvin Boehlke
Ray Bowles
Harold Heckmann
Robert Jaeger

Theodore Michalk
Eldor Mickan
Arnold Mueller
Theodore Vogel

50th Anniversary

Delmer Brack
Richard Dinda
Marvin Koch
Clifford Larson
Ronald Lawrenz

George Luecke
Guido Merkens
Erwin Metz
Virgil Meyer
Alfred Scholz

45th Anniversary

Hubert Beck
Robert Cardaro
Walter Chelmo
David Ebert
David Ebs
John Ellwanger
Alvin Franzmeier
Everett Gerdes
Thomas Glammeyer
Herbert Graf

Melvin Herring
Elmer Hohle
William Johnson
Otto Kretzmann
Robert Kuhlmann
James Luecke
Ray Martens
Norbert Mueller
Roger Neeb
Eugene Oesch

Thomas Petersen
Ernest Schoenborn
Andrew Simcak, Jr.
M. J. Stelmachowicz

Ahlert Strand, Sr.
Mark Steege
Otto Urban
Robert Wedergren

40th Anniversary

Henry Biar
Victor Bohlmann
Gerald Discher
Herbert Eifert
John Feierabend
Laverne Fitch
Roger Grummer
Eldor Harmann
James Herzog
Robert Hill
Ronald Jenkins
Raymond Kahle

Victor Kilian
Carroll Kohl
James Linderman
Harold Meissner
Francis Mennenga
Donald Muchow
Gerald Nichols
Glenn O'Shoney
Mark Pepoon
Ronald Rodeck
Douglas Robbins
Melvin Spenn

35th Anniversary

Bruce Blakelock
Daniel Canion
Clyburn Duder
Ernesto Garcia
Stanley Geisler
Fred Gersch
Donald Kaspar
Dean Kelm
Lawrence Kelm
Donald Kroll

Albert Loeschman
Larry Marhenke
Fred Neumann
J. W. Ristvedt
Richard Schroeder
Frank Starr
John Stelling
Melvin Symmank
Martin Teske

30th Anniversary

Walter Albers
George Ascher
Mark Behring
Neil Bockelmann
Robert Brunig
Samuel Cosby
Al Fanning
Duane Florschuetz
Gilbert Franke
Paul Howe
Richard Kessler

Duane Kirchner
Bert Klein
John Kieschnick
Keith Kubitz
Joseph Lowery
Paul Muench
I. Melvin Newman
Marion Parker
J. L. Precup
Douglas Rathgeber
Dave Schroder

Wayne Schumpe
John Selle
Kenneth Sinclair

Scott Stallings
Victor Willmann

25th Anniversary

Ken Baisden
Allen Bauer
Charles Boerger
Gerald Boerger
Kim De Vries
Robert Budewig
Martin Doering
Victor Frank
Tom Hadley
Joel Heck
Orville Horn

Laverne Janssen
David Kluth
Donald Loeschen
G. Donald Loudenback
Elder McCants
Daniel Mueller
Mark Paul
David Quail
Curtis Schneider
Walter Waiser
R. H. Wuensche, Jr.

EDUCATORS' AND DCE'S ANNIVERSARIES

60 Years

Wilbur Schumann

55 Years

Les R. Bayer
Ruth E. Doering
Ruby L. Mueller

50 Years

Martin Eifert
Harold Rutz
Dr. Leroy Tschatschula

45 Years

Katherine Bolland
Norman Clasen
Lillian Deterling
Raymond Fricke
Brice Kuhlmann

Reynold Kunz
William Leimbach
Walter Schramm
Norman Stuemke
Donald Rotermund

40 Years

Thomas Baden
Gerald Brunworth
Marilyn Comotto
Edward Gallmeier
Elizabeth Gallmeier
John Goeke
Cherry Hammon
Gary Hintz
Charles Jennings
David Koenig

Lois Lange
Merwyn Miessler
Pauline Miller
William Rutherford
Janice Sage
Darrell Schepmann
Helen Wenthe
William Wenthe
Carolyn Wilke

35 Years

Gayle Berry
Peggy Berry
Shirley Buser
Robert D'Ambrosio
Dorothea Eckert
Rodney Eckert
Trina Fischer
Sharlyn Fritz
Kenneth Germann
Lowell Goecker
Rose Ann Grissett
S. Michael Henke
Larry Hoffschneider

Terry Hynous
Lou Jander
Janice Kueck
Eloise Kuhlmann
Gene Ladendorf
Bonnie Noack
Melvin Schiwart
Carol Senechal
John Senechal
Carolyn Shaver
David Sommermeyer
Donald Zielke

30 Years

Kathleen Achterberg
Robert Achterberg
Steve Allmon
Bruce Baacke
Albert Bradley
Ruth Brunig
Sandra Doering
Timothy Dommer
Gary Frieling
Susan Fuessel
William Gumtow
Deborah Henry
Sharon Jones
Sylvia Kokel
Norma Kramer

Wayne Kramer
Paul Krentz
Rebecca Krentz
David Kroft
Susan Kroft
Gary Linkugel
Jan Lohmeyer
Ellen Malzahn
Robert Malzahn
Evelyn Mann
Jean Mersiovsky
Faith Morrison
Mary Mountford
Metford Mountford
M. Ted Nelson

Sandra Nun
Marilyn Petersen
Gerhardt Piphio
Stephanee Putnam
Carolyn Quandt
James Rawlings
Joel Robinson
Sally Rudy

Phyllis Trautner
Ardith Vandercook
James Vandercook
Mary Voelker
Diane Wallis
Janet Whitson
Charles Wildauer
Bruce Wurdeman

25 Years

Annette Boehnke
Suzanne Braun
Dorothy Burroughs
Stephen Clausen
Lynette Eickemeyer
Karen Einem
Randy Einem
Douglas Fox
Margaret Frank
Ronald Fritsche
David Glienke
Sandra Glienke
Elizabeth Gremmer
Margaret Harris
Donna Hauter
Thomas Hilgendorf
Pamela Hight
Corinne Hoffert
Ann Jung
Randall Kerkman
Carolyn Koslan

Elizabeth Landfried
Bobbie Ledbetter
Keith Lund
Eileen Lyons
Leann McClain
Mark McClain
James McConell
Cynthia Melcher
Kathleen Menzel
Deborah Merkord
Lanny Merkord
Eloise Nisayas
Karen Paluch
Judith Perez
Calisse Petersen
Connie Polley
Michael Rathje
Bruce Rudi
Julia Sawhill
Mark Wilk
Angela Zuehsow

X

CONVENTION ROSTER

THE CONVENTION DELEGATE ROSTER

PASTORS AND LAY DELEGATES PRESENT

CONGREGATION	PASTOR	LAY DELEGATE
Abilene, Our Savior	LaVerne Janssen	Walt Kionka
Abilene, Zion	Clyde Kieschnick	John Reising
Albany, Trinity	Don Loeschen	Rollins Roth
Aleman, St. Paul (Hamilton)	Donald Bahr	Martin Schrank
Amarillo, Christ		Howard Herm
Amarillo, Trinity	Mark Cattau	Billy Bob Moore
Anderson, Zion	Daniel Schoessow	Steve Molitor
Andrews, Faith		Ben Kemp
Angleton, Good Shepherd	Dean Bauer	Ted Felder
Arlington, Beautiful Savior	Brian Cummins	Scott Crandall
Arlington, Grace	Brad Beckman	Dorothy Kennedy
Arlington, Holy Cross	David Bahn	Matt de Blonk
Athens, St. John	Fred Rogers	Richard Howell
Austin, Beautiful Savior	M. J. Meyer	Wayne Harned
Austin, Bethany	William Knippa	Allen Menzel
Austin, Christ	John Stennfeld	Larry Steiger
Austin, CrossBridge Community	Bob Mueller	
Austin, Hope	Peter Heckmann	Allen Mueller
Austin, Jesus Deaf	Mark Seeger	Jeffrey McGuire
Austin, Mt. Olive	Paul Meyer	Jerry Scott
Austin, Our Savior	Keith Gravesmill	Jon Oelrich
Austin, Redeemer	Kevin Westergren	Harold Fischer
Austin, St. Paul	Clyburn Duder	Merry Saegert
Austin, Trinity	Paul Harris	Ike Johnson
Azle, Good Shepherd	Craig Schinnerer	Bob Graves
Ballinger / Eola, Bethel / Mt. Calvary	Thomas Baden	
Bastrop, Prince of Peace	Henry Biar II	
Baytown, Redeemer	Walter Dube	Kenny Hatfield
Beaumont, Redeemer	Fred Kelm	Lloyd Koehnen
Beaumont, St. John	Douglas Rathgeber	Keith Davis
Bedford, Concordia	Roger Grummer	Lawrence Reid
Belton, Prince of Peace	Gregory Knippa	Kathy Gibbs
Big Spring, St. Paul		Bobby Roeover
Bishop, St. Paul	Gil Franke	Barry Wolf
Boerne, Messiah	Ted Andrada	Lee Scallorn
Bonham, Zion		William Schatte
Borger, Good Shepherd	Steven Misch	Tim McCauley

Borger, Trinity		Bruce Gordon
Bowie, St. Peter	B.R. Brummett	Art Noack
Brenham, Grace	Matthew Jacobs	William Krueger
Brownsville, Trinity	David Byler	David Greene
Brownwood, Grace	Philip Graf	Kurt Meyer
Bryan, Bethel	Neil Bockelmann	Norbert Mahnke
Buchanan Dam, Genesis	Ken Baisden	Bill Byles
Burkburnett, Grace	Tim Kohlmeier	
Burleson, Charity	Kent Heimbigner	
Canyon, St. Paul	Terry Meyer	Matthew Lauterbach
Carrollton, Prince of Peace	Stephen Wagner	Carl Schwab
Cedar Park, Good Shepherd	Richard Goodwill	Tom Mittelstadt
Centerville, Our Savior	Red Etzel	
Cisco, Redeemer		Harold Reich
Cleburne, Ascension	Joe Ardy	Charles Stalmach
Cleveland, Good Shepherd	Harold Heckmann	George Hughes
Clifton, Immanuel	Peter Diebenow	David Anderson
College Station, Holy Cross	Michael Hafer	Brian Hervey
Colleyville, Crown of Life	David Jung	Dennis Jones
Conroe, St. Mark	David Quail	Larry LeBlanc
Coppell, Christ Our Savior	Richard Mohr	Karl Bergstrasser
Copperas Cove, Immanuel	Robert W Wagner	Kathleen L Wagner
Copperas Cove, Trinity	Bernard Schey	Albert Schoonover
Corpus Christi, Lord of Life	Al Schubert	
Corpus Christi, Messiah	Clifford Larson	Bob Stroh
Corpus Christi, Mt. Olive		Bill Waterman
Corpus Christi, Our Savior	Gilbert Flores	Joe Yañez
Corpus Christi, Trinity	Alston Kirk	Curtis Blomstedt
Corsicana, Faith	Peter Kolb	Gene Bullard
Crockett, Grace	Jonathan Meyer	
Crosby, Our Shepherd	Victor Frank	Bud Morgan
Cypress, St. John	Duane Bamsch	Carl Benton
Dallas, Bethel		Ron Hutchings
Dallas, Holy Cross	Donald Little	James Wirz
Dallas, Our Redeemer	Martin Teske	Ray Maturi
Dallas, St. Paul	John Nunes	LaShunn Thomas
Dallas, Zion	Robert Preece	Jack Harris
Denison, Grace	Michael Mattil	Gary Miller
Denton, St. Paul	Russell Tieken	Martin Noto
DeSoto, Cross of Christ	John DeYoung	
Devine, Divine Savior	Dale Brynestad	
Dime Box, Trinity	D. A. Robbins	Keith Kersten
Dumas, St. John	Don Poole	
Eden/Menard, Trinity/Grace	Bob Boyce	Georgie Boyce
Edna, St. Paul		Charles Born

Elgin, Grace	Bryan Sullivan	Milton Wieding
Fairview, Immanuel	Paul Neumann	Mark Clemens
Flower Mound, Emmanuel Ev.		Kyle Wright
Flower Mound, Lamb of God	Wayne Braun	Derrell Bulls
Fort Worth, Christ	Randall Bard	Wilford Wilde
Fort Worth, Redeemer	David Grassley	Clark Peñas
Forth Worth, St. Paul	John Messmann	Rollin Bard
Fredericksburg, Resurrection	Edward Giese	Dennis Roberts
Friendswood, Hope	Ralph Hobratschk	Harvey Melcher
Frisco, Water's Edge	Brad Aldrich	Heather Hattori
Gainesville, Faith	Scott Sundbye	Keith Porter
Galena Park, Peace	Richard Turner	Bernice Turner
Galveston, St. John's	Alan Taylor	Stephen Stone
Garland, Peace	Jeffrey Ahonen	John Morgan
Garland, Tree of Life	Thomas Thierfelder	Richard Woolery
Georgetown, Faith	John Selle	Curtis Mickan
Giddings, Immanuel	John Davis, Jr.	James Medack
Graham/Bridgeport, Faith/Trinity	Gerald Peterman	Lee Roy Schmedthorst
Granbury, Our Savior		Philip Reich
Grand Prairie, Faith	Jonathan Schroeder	Lee Siller
Groves, St. Paul		Daniel Ognoskie
Gun Barrel City, St. Peter	Scott Schaller	Weiss Wallace
Hamilton, St. John	Russell Nebhut	Steve Sanford
Harlingen, Our Redeemer	Donald Neumann	Phyllis Neumann
Harlingen, St. Paul		Ramón Montañez
Haslet, Holy Shepherd	Dennis Kitzmann	Gerald Bennett
Hewitt, Peace	Stephen Rynearson	Paul Eisen
Hillsboro, Christ	Michael Nemec	Loretta Uhles
Houston, Beautiful Savior		Burl Holloway
Houston, Bethany	John Thompson	
Houston, Calvary	Willie Lucas	James Lockhart
Houston, Christ	Todd Dittloff	Stephen Krebs
Houston, Christ Memorial		Les Schmaltz
Houston, Epiphany	Michael Welmer	Harold Wilke
Houston, Gethsemane	John Cain	Wes Krueger
Houston, Gloria Dei	John Kieschnick	Tim Brunette
Houston, Holy Cross	James Martin	
Houston, Holy Three-in-One	Larry Lieder	David Naumann
Houston, Immanuel	Timothy Carr	Catherine Carr
Houston, Memorial	John Bart Day	
Houston, Mount Calvary	Samuel Cosby	Melvin Hughes
Houston, Mount Olive	Randy Ledbetter	Bill Ebeling
Houston, Our Redeemer	Lawrence Kelm	Ed Haude
Houston, Pilgrim	Martin Kaufmann	William Feucht

Houston, San Pedro	John Díaz	Roger Naumann
Houston, St. Andrew	Paul Ferguson	Chip Dudley
Houston, St. Mark	William Dasch	Dennis Wiechman
Houston, St. Matthew	John Stelling	Robert Johnson
Houston, St. Timothy	Steve Henze	
Houston, Family of Faith	Mike Ramey	Dean Millman
Houston, Trinity	David Leeland	David Weinhold
Humble, Lamb of God	Harold Fleischhauer	Billy Phillips
Hunstville, Faith	Reinhard Wuensche, Jr.	Don Petersen
Hurst, Peace	Walter Waiser	Mark Burken
Iowa Park/Trinity/Harrold/Immanuel	Robert Holaday	David Bentley
Irving, Our Redeemer	Robert Gonzalez	Susan Gonzalez
Katy, Crosspoint Community	Bill Woolsey	Jeff Reed
Katy, Memorial	Erik Stadler	Wendell Menard
Keller, Messiah	Glenn Huebel	Herbert Hermann Jr.
Kerrville, Holy Cross		Roy Randolph
Kerrville, Hosanna	Joe Watson	Bill Sliva
Kilgore, Pilgrim		George Heil
Killeen, Grace	Andrew Green	
Kingsbury, Evangelists'		James Bert Neely
Kingsville, St. Paul	Allan Eckert	J. A. Wiederanders
Kingwood, Christ the King	Doyle Theimer	Jim Whaley
La Grange, Mt. Calvary	Dennis Bragdon	Garland Midgett
Lago Vista, Christ Our Savior	John Ellwanger	Mike McKiernan
Lake Jackson, St. Mark	Steve Larsen	Larry Schmiede
Lamesa, Grace		Wilbur Heins
Lampasas, Faith	Timothy Ochsner	Mike Billig
Laredo, Faith	Del King	Joseph Pelto
Lariat, St. John	Dave Symm	Steven Kaltwasser
Lexington, St. James	Leif Hasskarl	Adolph Herter
Lincoln, St. John	Dale Bohm	Dennis Patschke
Littlefield, Emmanuel		Clarence Hobratschk
Livingston, Trinity		David Larsen
Loebau / Manheim, Christ / Ebenezer	Herb Keistman	Carl Exner
Longview, Our Redeemer	Darrell Howanitz	Jeff Schneider
Lubbock, Christ	Mark Paul	Terry Richter
Lubbock, Hope	Tim Radkey	David Baldner
Lubbock, Redeemer	Jay Beyer	Zane Reese
Lufkin, First		Tom Theiss
Magnolia, St. Paul	W. Clayton Campbell	Clint Dixon
Malone, Salem	James Heiser	Cliff Krumvieda
Mansfield, St. John	George Ascher	Joe Miklovich
Marlin, Grace	Gerald Epperson	Ernest Kluck

Mart, Grace	David Jeske	Carl Payne
McAllen, El Buen	Roberto Simental	
McAllen, St. Paul	Duane Kirchner	Fred Karle
McKinney, Our Savior	Danny Tutwiler	Richard Lorenz
Mercedes, Immanuel	Dale Lehfeldt	Earl Neuhaus
Midland, Grace	Robert Pase	Jim Ramsey
Midland, Holy Cross	Phil Konz	Rodney Maxson
Mineral Wells, St. Mark	Ernest Bernet	James Lorenz
Monahans, St. Paul	Michael Fickenscher	
Mt. Pleasant/Clarksville/St. John, Good Shepherd	Wayne Renning	Martin Schneider
Nacogdoches, Redeemer	Robert Kobler	Guy Hicks
Navasota, Trinity	Donald Kasper	Bill Boehm
Nederland, Holy Cross	Francis Schroeder	John Ludwig
New Braunfels, Cross	Don Fraker	David Luckemeyer
New Caney, Grace	Bruce Blakelock	Sandra Blakelock
North Zulch, Bethlehem	A. J. Loeschman	Dennis Theiss
Odessa, Redeemer	A. Dean Kelm	Bradley Bains
Olney, St. Luke	Sean Reeves	Stanley Neal
Orange, Grace	Jeffrey Muchow	Roger Burman
Palestine, Bethlehem	David Bergman	Tim Lawson
Pampa, Zion	Michael Erickson	Stan Franke
Paris, Grace	Jerry Conley	Don Gray
Pasadena, Good Shepherd	Steve Stutz	Krista Stutz
Pasadena, Zion	David Sawhill	Robert Bost
Pattison, Christ	Bill Schwertlich	Tim Wolff
Pearland, Epiphany	Jon Salminen	Fred Galka
Pearsall, St. Peter	Robert Gentet	Marjorie Gentet
Plainview, St. Paul	Gerald Boerger	Herb Schott
Plano, Faith	Robert Hill	Ross Pounders
Plano, Lord of Life	John Lindner	Joey Sevin
Plano, St. Paul	Jack Schneider	Matt Evans
Port Arthur, St. Mark		Charles Maxile
Port Arthur, Trinity	Tim Dinger	Jack Sell
Portland, Fishers of Family		Michael Kennedy
Raymondville, Mt. Calvary	Walter Pohland	John Buffo
Richardson, Messiah	Victor Kollmann	Bill Johnson
Rockdale, Grace	James Craver	James Throckmorton
Rockport, Peace		Kenneth Malek
Rockwall, Our Savior	Richard Mayerhoff	Mike Oldham
Rosebud, First	Walter Chelmo	Harold Flentge
Rosenberg, Trinity	Wayne Schueler	Robert Grigar
Round Rock, King of Kings	Mark Dankis	Bill Turner
Rowlett, Crown of Life	Tom Hadley	Mark Traugott
San Angelo, Trinity	Robert Budewig	Ross Fowler

San Antonio, Concordia	Bill Tucker	Gary Juhl
San Antonio, Cristo Nuestro Salvador	Eloy Gonzalez	Robert Martinez
San Antonio, Crown of Life	Mark Barz	Philip Appel
San Antonio, Holy Cross	Roger Hotopp	
San Antonio, Immanuel	Theodore Vogel	Richard Mueller
San Antonio, King of Kings	Henry Biar	Ed Schweninger
San Antonio, Mount Olive	Dan Williams	Vicki Harris
San Antonio, Mt. Calvary		Jim Koenig
San Antonio, San Esteban		Everett Mason
San Antonio, Shepherd of the Hills	Daniel Mueller	Mark Melcher
San Antonio, St. Paul	Carlos Boerger	Lucy Wilke
San Benito, St. John	Marcus Mueller	Richard Nuñez
San Marcos, Grace	Bruce Pepper	David Bandy
Schulenburg, Zion	Lee Kunkel	Mike Schleider
Sealy, Trinity	Mark Anderson	Alan Boehm
Seguin, Grace	Fred Neumann	Duane Dieterich
Serbin, St. Paul	Michael Buchhorn	Daniel Krause
Smithville, Grace	James Richardson	Jonathan Zabel
Spring, Resurrection	Ric McMillian	John Harris
Spring, Trinity - Klein	Richard Noack	George Sokol
Stephenville, Faith		Brent Weckwerth
Sugar Land, Faith		Jerry Lohr
Sugar Land, Fishers of Men	Thomas Van Duzer	Terry Hemphill
Sulphur Springs, Our Savior	Mac Bearss	Jon Stowater
Sweeny, St. Luke	Edward Boineau	Frederick Sutter
Sweetwater, Faith	Dale Snyder	
Taylor, Trinity	Martin Doering	
Temple, Immanuel	Alan Struckmeyer	J. W. Krueger
Texarkana, First	Curtis Schneider	James Hendrix
Texas City, Peace	David Tessmann	T. A. Houston
The Grove, St. Paul	John Heckmann	Rodgers Symm
The Woodlands, Living Word	Alfonso Espinosa	Fred Lemire
Thorndale, St. Paul	James Mann	Donna Johnston
Tomball, Salem	Wayne Graumann	Mark Knebel
Tomball, Zion	Jerome Teichmiller	Myron Schroeder
Tyler, Trinity	Vic Willmann	Ernest Clark
Uvalde, Trinity	Raymond Reich	Louis Dicke
Vernon, Zion	Kenneth Bersche	
Victoria, Grace		Jim Kaiser
Waco, St. Mark	James Price	Mark Taylor
Waco, St. Paul	Joel Boesche	Gene Bode
Waco, Trinity	Donald Olson, Jr	Dan Wiethorn
Walburg, Zion	John Davenport	Troy Johnson

Wallis, St. Paul		Robert Osborne, Sr.
Warda, Holy Cross	Thomas Hoyt	Allan Jurk
Watauga, Zion	David Loeffler	Ronald York
Waxahachie, Christ the King		Jason von der Lage
Weatherford, Trinity	Kenneth Watson	Kevin Morris
West Sinton/Aransas Pass, Trinity/Faith	James Sturgis	Margaret Sturgis
Westfield, St. Matthew	Ron Bogs	Don Cornman
Wharton, St. John's	Barry Sharp	Henry Thiele
White Hall, Salem	W. E. Schumpe	Glenn Schroeder
Whitney, Our Savior	Francis Mennenga	Jerry David
Wichita Falls, Our Redeemer	Charles Paulson	Kathy Paulson
Wichita Falls, St. Paul	Thomas Handrick	James Grove
William Penn, Bethlehem	Eldor Harmann	Ross Jaster
Wills Point, Holy Cross	Larry Marhenke	Milton Martinson
Wilson, St. Paul	David Rohde	Thomas Probst
Winchester, St. Michael's	Henry Wied	Clint Bushacker
Winnie, Hope	Donald Kroll	Robert Bauer
Woodville, Faith	Mark Follett	Willie Wilson
Zapata, Abiding Savior	Ronald Hampsten	Mary Hampsten