

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-01 (Overture 2-01, CW, pp. 128-129)**

2  
3 **SUBJECT:** TO RECOGNIZE THE CONGREGATIONS OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT AS  
4 MISSION OUTPOSTS

5  
6 **WHEREAS,** God’s desire is that all be saved (1 Ti. 2:4) and only under the name of Jesus Christ (Acts  
7 4:12); AND

8  
9 **WHEREAS,** The 2004 LCMS Convention Resolution 1-02, “To Promote ‘Mission Outpost’ Attitude,”  
10 states in the first *Resolved*: “That each congregation, ministry, and school within our  
11 Synod, being led by the Holy Spirit through a determined study of the Scriptures and  
12 prayer, not only understands itself as a mission outpost to all the unchurched “in  
13 Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8) but also  
14 sees that its own community is a mission field today”; AND

15  
16 **WHEREAS,** The 2004 LCMS Resolution 1-02 states in another *Resolved*: “That each District within  
17 our Synod be encouraged to assist congregations, ministries, and schools with resources  
18 to expand their vision for mission and ministry that fulfills Acts 1:8”; AND

19  
20 **WHEREAS,** The “Objectives” of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod as stated in its Constitution  
21 recognize the priorities of: 1) conserving and promoting the unity of the true faith; and, 2)  
22 strengthening congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed  
23 to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and extending that Gospel  
24 witness into all the world; AND

25  
26 **WHEREAS,** There are unchurched people in every community in South Dakota, and many of those  
27 who are unchurched are without a saving relationship of faith in the only true God; AND

28  
29 **WHEREAS,** God has given to every congregation within The South Dakota District of The Lutheran  
30 Church – Missouri Synod the Means through which the Holy Spirit works to create and  
31 sustain saving faith, namely His Divinely inspired Word and Sacraments; AND

32  
33 **WHEREAS,** God’s Word continues to impress upon His Church that “now is the favorable time;  
34 behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2, *ESV*); AND

35  
36 **WHEREAS,** The Mission Statement of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod states: “In grateful  
37 response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and  
38 Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod is vigorously to make  
39 known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and world;”  
40 AND

41  
42 **WHEREAS,** Reverend Wes Hafner, working as part of our Outreach Services Area, and Reverend  
43 David Schwan have put together a “Congregational Refocusing” process for any of our  
44 congregations within South Dakota. This process takes into account the reality that  
45 congregations in our midst may be suffering from loss of membership, loss of people  
46 from the community, dwindling income, and inability to give their pastor the support they  
47 should. The “Congregational Refocusing” process helps congregations intentionally think  
48 about their place within the Body of Christ, their communities, the District, and Synod.  
49 Hence, the theme of this convention, “Called into Partnership” really is significant as we  
50 seek out new ways to work together for the building up of the Body of Christ.  
51 THEREFORE BE IT

To the 58<sup>th</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
April 29 – May 2, 2009

54 **RESOLVED:** That every congregation, ministry, and school of The South Dakota District of The  
55 Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod understand itself as a “mission outpost” to all the  
56 unchurched “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”  
57 (Acts 1:8) and that it also sees that its own community is a mission field into which the  
58 congregation, ministry, or school, as well as its pastor(s) and members or students have  
59 been called to make a bold witness; AND BE IT FURTHER  
60

61 **RESOLVED:** That one priority of The South Dakota District during the upcoming triennium be to assist  
62 and equip every District congregation, ministry, or school in understanding itself as a  
63 “mission outpost”, AND BE IT FURTHER  
64

65 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District both continue to offer its “Congregational Refocusing”  
66 process as well as further develop resources which will aid congregations, ministries or  
67 schools in understanding their role as “mission outposts”, AND BE IT FURTHER  
68

69 **RESOLVED:** That every circuit of The South Dakota District be encouraged to utilize Circuit Pastors’  
70 Conferences (“Winkels”), Circuit Forums, and Circuit Convocations as opportunities to  
71 encourage every congregation or school of the circuit to live as a “mission outpost”  
72 vigorously making known the love of Christ by word and deed within the church and in  
73 the community; AND BE IT FINALLY  
74

75 **RESOLVED:** That all congregations, ministries and schools of the District be encouraged to avail  
76 themselves of resources, including the District’s “Congregational Refocusing” process,  
77 which will assist them in developing greater mission commitment while also conserving  
78 and promoting the unity of the true faith.  
79

80 Respectfully Submitted,  
81

82  
83 \_\_\_\_\_  
84 Reverend J. Bradford Urbach, Chairman  
85

86  
87 \_\_\_\_\_  
88 Reverend Christopher Boehnke  
89

90  
91 \_\_\_\_\_  
92 Mrs. Dianne Diekmann  
93

94  
95 \_\_\_\_\_  
96 Mr. Larry Raad  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107

---

1     **RESOLUTION: 2-02 (Overture 2-02, CW, pp. 130-132)**  
2

3     **SUBJECT:**     TO ENCOURAGE SMALLER CONGREGATIONS AND PARISHES  
4

5     **WHEREAS,**     78 of the 115 congregations of The South Dakota District have an average weekly  
6     worship attendance of 100 or less, including:  
7     

- 8     • 13 congregations with an average weekly attendance of 20 or less;
- 9     • 30 congregations with an average weekly attendance of 21-40;
- 10    • 22 congregations with an average weekly attendance of 41-60;
- 11    • 4 congregations with an average weekly attendance of 61-80;
- 12    • 9 congregations with an average weekly attendance of 81-100; AND

13    **WHEREAS,**     75 of the 115 congregations of The South Dakota District (i.e., 65%) are either in  
14    multiple-point parishes, in hub-ministry arrangements, or are in arrangements in which  
15    one congregation considered a non-calling vacancy is being served in conjunction with  
16    one or more other congregations; AND  
17

18    **WHEREAS,**     19 of the 35 multiple-point parishes, hub-ministry arrangements, or arrangements in  
19    which one congregation is considered a non-calling vacancy have an average weekly  
20    worship attendance of 100 or less; AND  
21

22    **WHEREAS,**     Many of the smaller congregations and parishes of The South Dakota District exist in  
23    communities or rural areas with population trends that show decline due to demographic  
24    factors such as aging populations, smaller families, larger farms or ranches, shifts of  
25    commerce from small towns to centrally located cities, and a variety of other factors; AND  
26

27    **WHEREAS,**     Population trends in South Dakota are expected to continue showing a shift of population  
28    from rural to urban communities with the corresponding effect of declining membership  
29    and worship attendance in rural congregations and parishes; AND  
30

31    **WHEREAS,**     Many smaller congregations and parishes already are facing financial challenges in  
32    providing adequate salaries for their pastors – especially if they follow District Salary  
33    Guidelines that provide annual adjustments for cost-of-living increases and recognition  
34    for years-in-ministry, and in meeting the annual premium increases in the retirement,  
35    disability, and health plan packages; AND  
36

37    **WHEREAS,**     One significant factor in leading smaller congregations to consider closing their churches  
38    is the concern that they are no longer able to pay the pastor’s salary and benefits or  
39    provide their “fair share” in a multi-point arrangement; AND  
40

41    **WHEREAS,**     When a pastor serves more than two congregations, time and distance factors severely  
42    restrict the number of services he can conduct on a given Sunday morning; AND  
43

44    **WHEREAS,**     Some members or congregations have stated that when they are no longer able to have  
45    Sunday morning services, their congregation will need to close; AND  
46

47    **WHEREAS,**     History has shown that when congregations of The South Dakota District have closed in  
48    the past, there are individuals who neither transfer their membership to neighboring  
49    congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, nor affiliate with other Christian  
50    congregations, but who appear to be lost to God’s kingdom; AND  
51

52    **WHEREAS,**     God does not desire that any should perish (cf. 2 Pet. 3:9); AND

---

- 53 **WHEREAS,** Jesus states that where two or three are gathered in His name, He is present in the midst  
54 of them (cf. Matt. 18:20); AND  
55
- 56 **WHEREAS,** When congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are not present in  
57 communities, often there is no pure Gospel presence with the Word of God being taught  
58 and proclaimed in its truth and purity and the Sacraments administered according to  
59 Christ’s institution; AND  
60
- 61 **WHEREAS,** Many early congregations of The South Dakota District began as “preaching stations”  
62 and were served by pastors who served multiple congregations or groups of believers,  
63 often holding the Divine Service during the week; AND  
64
- 65 **WHEREAS,** It was not unusual for groups of believers to gather and have lay-reading services when  
66 the pastor was not available to lead the Divine Service; AND  
67
- 68 **WHEREAS,** The Sabbath (Saturday) was a sign pointing to Jesus, and since Jesus has come as our  
69 Savior, God no longer requires us to observe the Sabbath day (i.e., Saturday; cf. Matt.  
70 12:8; Col. 2:16-17); and while God still requires Christians to worship together (Acts  
71 2:42,46; Heb. 10:25), and while the church traditionally has worshipped on Sunday  
72 because Christ rose from the dead on Sunday (cf. Luke 24:1-2; Acts 20:7); in the New  
73 Testament God has not commanded any particular day *or time* for worship (cf. Rom.  
74 14:5-6; Gal. 4:10-11), AND  
75
- 76 **WHEREAS,** Through The South Dakota District’s Lay Leadership Institute (Level III), men may  
77 receive training to assist their pastors under their pastors’ direct oversight in beneficial  
78 ways faithful to the Lutheran Confessions (cf. Augsburg Confession, Article XIV) when  
79 pastors are called to serve in multi-point situations; AND  
80
- 81 **WHEREAS,** LCMS 2007 Convention Resolution 5-01B established the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP)  
82 program, providing for seminary level education and ordination for qualified men who  
83 may be called to serve in specific locations either to assist a regularly called pastor who  
84 is serving a multiple-point parish or to serve as a part-time or “bi-vocational” pastor in one  
85 location; AND  
86
- 87 **WHEREAS,** By utilizing specially trained assistants or Specific Ministry Pastors in conjunction with a  
88 regularly called pastor, parishes consisting of several small congregations can continue  
89 to be served with Word and Sacrament in the Divine Service and can receive adequate  
90 pastoral care, while still being able to contribute to a full-time called pastor as well as a  
91 volunteer or part-time assistant to the regularly called pastor; THEREFORE BE IT  
92
- 93 **RESOLVED:** That The South Dakota District in Convention encourage small congregations and  
94 parishes to continue their Gospel presence in their respective community or communities  
95 and to consider themselves as “mission outposts”; AND BE IT FURTHER  
96
- 97 **RESOLVED:** That rather than consider closing a church in a community or disbanding a parish, smaller  
98 congregations and parishes are encouraged to consider alternative ways of being served,  
99 including: expanding multiple-site arrangements, willingness to hold Divine Services at  
100 times other than Sunday morning when necessary to keep the church open, and  
101 willingness to encourage the use of men trained through the District’s Lay Leadership  
102 Institute (Level III) or the use of men trained and subsequently called and ordained under  
103 the Synod’s Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program; AND BE IT FINALLY  
104
-

To the 58<sup>th</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
April 29 – May 2, 2009

105 **RESOLVED:** That congregations and parishes enlist the assistance of the President of the South  
106 Dakota District ~~or his representative, namely the Circuit Counselor and/or the District~~  
107 ~~Executive Secretary~~ as soon as serious discussion begins which could lead to the  
108 dissolution or realignment of a congregation or parish.  
109

110 Respectfully Submitted,  
111

112  
113 \_\_\_\_\_  
114 Reverend J. Bradford Urbach, Chairman  
115

116  
117 \_\_\_\_\_  
118 Reverend Christopher Boehnke  
119

120  
121 \_\_\_\_\_  
122 Mrs. Dianne Diekmann  
123

124  
125 \_\_\_\_\_  
126 Mr. Larry Raad  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136  
137  
138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144  
145  
146  
147  
148  
149  
150  
151  
152  
153  
154  
155  
156  
157

---

- 1     **RESOLUTION: 2-03A (Overture 2-03, CW, p. 133)**  
2  
3     **SUBJECT:**     TO PLANT NEW CONGREGATIONS IN THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT  
4  
5     **WHEREAS,**     Our Lord desires the salvation of all people (I Tim. 2:4); AND  
6  
7     **WHEREAS,**     Mission congregations have been proven to be effective tools that the Lord uses to  
8                     reach the lost and erring; AND  
9  
10    **WHEREAS,**     The "Ablaze" movement of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has established the  
11                     goal of adding 1,000 new congregations and preaching stations by 2017; AND  
12  
13    **WHEREAS,**     Clear opportunities for new mission starts exist in the Sioux Falls area and may exist in  
14                     other areas of the South Dakota District; AND  
15  
16    **WHEREAS,**     The current policy of suggesting new mission starts be established by sponsoring  
17                     congregations has yielded no new missions in the past five years (cf. SD District Board  
18                     Policies, p. 16); AND  
19  
20    **WHEREAS,**     Two District congregations, or more, are expected to go off District subsidy in the next  
21                     triennium; AND  
22  
23    **WHEREAS,**     The South Dakota District holds over one million dollars in Board Designated Funds,  
24                     which, in the past, have been used for the purchase of advance mission sites, and has  
25                     the ability through the Church Extension Fund to borrow money if needed to purchase  
26                     advance mission sites; THEREFORE BE IT  
27  
28    **RESOLVED:**     That the Board of Directors of the District review its involvement in new mission starts  
29                     and be directed to be more proactive in identifying potential locations and when beneficial  
30                     purchasing such locations for mission starts; AND BE IT FURTHER  
31  
32    **RESOLVED:**     That each congregation of the District also be encouraged to identify locations for  
33                     potential new missions, and consider direct sponsorship of a new mission congregation;  
34                     AND BE IT FURTHER  
35  
36    **RESOLVED:**     That the 115 congregations of the South Dakota District, in partnership with one another  
37                     and with the District Board of Directors, establish the goal of planting at least three  
38                     congregations in the next triennium; AND BE IT FURTHER  
39  
40    **RESOLVED:**     That when potential locations for new missions are identified the South Dakota District  
41                     Board of Directors extend calls and/or provide staff as needed to begin and/or assist the  
42                     process of church planting in those locations; AND BE IT FINALLY  
43  
44    **RESOLVED:**     That the South Dakota District Board of Directors use "Board Designated Funds" and/or  
45                     other available funds to provide initial funding and District subsidy as needed for the  
46                     planting of new congregations in those locations.  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51
-

To the 58<sup>th</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
April 29 – May 2, 2009

52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Reverend J. Bradford Urbach, Chairman

---

Reverend Christopher Boehnke

---

Mrs. Dianne Diekmann

---

Mr. Larry Raad

---

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-04 (Overture 2-04, CW, pp. 134-135)**

2  
3 **SUBJECT:** TO AFFIRM AND ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION IN THE SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT  
4 LAY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

5  
6 **WHEREAS,** The 2003 Convention of The South Dakota District approved Resolution 1-38 – “To  
7 Encourage the Formation of a District Lay Leadership Institute”; AND

8  
9 **WHEREAS,** The Lay Leadership Institute of The South Dakota District has been established and has  
10 been in operation and providing classes since 2007; AND

11 **WHEREAS,** The Lay Leadership Institute provides for the following three levels of involvement:

12 Level I

- Available to anyone seeking a deeper knowledge of Scripture.

13 Level II

- For gifted lay men and women who desire to be trained for greater service within their congregations.
- Equips laity for work spreading God’s Word.

14 Level III

- Designed for men who wish to receive training to aid their pastor.
- Provides a foundation for men who wish to proceed into the Distance Theological Education Program of the Synod, i.e., the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program; AND

15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26 **WHEREAS,** The Lay Leadership Institute, in partnership with the seminaries of the Synod, provides a  
27 core curriculum of beneficial classes, including classes on the Old and New Testaments,  
28 Biblical Interpretation, The Lutheran Confessions and Christian Doctrine, Church History,  
29 Lutheran Worship, Teaching the Faith, Mission Outreach, Pastoral Care, and Homiletics  
30 (Level III only); AND

31  
32 **WHEREAS,** God’s Word encourages God’s people of faith to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and  
33 Savior Jesus Christ (cf. 2 Peter 3:18) and to grow in attaining unity of faith and  
34 knowledge of the Son of God in order that they are not carried about by false doctrine  
35 and the cunning of men (cf. Ephesians 4:13-15); AND

36  
37 **WHEREAS,** Demographic trends in many communities in South Dakota and membership and  
38 attendance trends in many congregations of The South Dakota District suggest that it will  
39 be necessary to form more multiple-point parishes in the near future; AND

40  
41 **WHEREAS,** Whether in multiple-point parishes or in larger congregations that have a work load that  
42 increasingly challenges the called pastor(s) and volunteers, specially trained laity can  
43 provide much God-pleasing service; AND

44  
45 **WHEREAS,** Men trained in Level III of the Lay Leadership Institute are able to be of significant  
46 assistance to their pastor, supporting their pastor for greater service to God’s kingdom;  
47 AND

48  
49 **WHEREAS,** Some men who are involved in Level III training and service may decide to continue their  
50 preparation for the Office of the Holy Ministry either through attendance at one of our  
51 Synod’s seminaries or through Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) training, resulting in more  
52 laborers being sent into the harvest (cf. Luke 10:2); THEREFORE BE IT  
53

---

To the 58<sup>th</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
April 29 – May 2, 2009

54 **RESOLVED:** That in convention, we affirm the Lay Leadership Institute of The South Dakota District,  
55 thanking the Lord of the harvest for the Lay Leadership Institute, for the pastors who have  
56 taught the classes, and for the lay men who have enrolled in the classes; AND BE IT  
57 FURTHER

58  
59 **RESOLVED:** That the congregations of The South Dakota District encourage dedicated lay men and  
60 women to enroll in the Lay Leadership Institute classes: AND BE IT FINALLY

61  
62 **RESOLVED:** That in the case of multiple-point parishes, potential multiple-point parishes, or in  
63 parishes in which the pastor would benefit from special assistance from trained lay men,  
64 special encouragement be given to lay men to enroll in Level III of the Lay Leadership  
65 Institute.

66  
67 Respectfully Submitted,

68  
69  
70  
71  
72 \_\_\_\_\_  
73 Reverend J. Bradford Urbach, Chairman

74  
75  
76  
77 \_\_\_\_\_  
78 Reverend Christopher Boehnke

79  
80  
81  
82 \_\_\_\_\_  
83 Mrs. Dianne Diekmann

84  
85  
86  
87 \_\_\_\_\_  
88 Mr. Larry Raad

89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-05 (Overture 2-05, CW, pp. 136-137)**  
2

3 **SUBJECT:** TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT OF THE MISSION AND MINISTRY WORK OF THE  
4 SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT THROUGH BEQUESTS AND ENDOWMENTS  
5

6 **WHEREAS,** Through God's Word, we are reminded that we brought nothing into this world, and it is  
7 certain we can carry nothing out (cf. Job. 1:21; Eccl. 5:15); AND  
8

9 **WHEREAS,** God's Word also teaches that all that we have has come from God, and that any gift we  
10 give to God has first come from Him (cf. Ps. 24:1; 1 Chron. 29:14); AND  
11

12 **WHEREAS,** Even as we have been called into partnership in the Gospel, God has also called us into  
13 faithful stewardship for the sake of the Gospel; AND  
14

15 **WHEREAS,** In gratitude for God's multitude of blessings of body and soul, and with commitment to  
16 the mission and ministry work of God's kingdom in South Dakota, several members of  
17 congregations of The South Dakota District have, in the past, established endowments or  
18 provided bequests to The South Dakota District for the purpose of support for greater  
19 Gospel outreach through such things as the start of new mission congregations or for  
20 training of those who will be pastors, teachers, DCEs, and other church workers; AND  
21

22 **WHEREAS,** Through income generated from trusts established through endowments and bequests,  
23 many men and women of congregations of The South Dakota District have received  
24 significant financial assistance while attending colleges, universities, or seminaries in  
25 their preparation for professional church work vocations; AND  
26

27 **WHEREAS,** Through bequest monies, The South Dakota District has been able to purchase land sites  
28 for several new mission starts, often when the cost of land otherwise would have been  
29 prohibitive for a new mission start; AND  
30

31 **WHEREAS,** In recent years, interest earnings generated from bequests have enabled the District to  
32 fund that portion of the District Work Program left unfunded due to financial challenges  
33 faced by many congregations that have resulted in static, declining, or even zero  
34 congregational support for District operations; AND  
35

36 **WHEREAS,** Certain assistance programs established by The South Dakota District in convention –  
37 such as the Church Worker Education Debt Assistance (CWEDA) Fund and the  
38 Barnabas Fund (for assistance for rural ministry) – are funded primarily from interest  
39 earnings generated from endowments and bequests, but are limited by small amounts  
40 that have been given for these ministries to date; THEREFORE BE IT  
41

42 **RESOLVED:** That we thank God for those who, as part of their faithful stewardship of all that God has  
43 given them, have created or contributed to endowment funds of The South Dakota  
44 District, or who have made provision for bequests to the District as part of the final  
45 distribution of their assets; AND BE IT FURTHER  
46

47 **RESOLVED:** That the District Office provide information through the District Newsletter and through  
48 the "District Supplement" of The Lutheran Witness encouraging the members of  
49 congregations to support District endowment funds and to consider making provision for  
50 bequests to The South Dakota District; AND BE IT FINALLY  
51  
52  
53

---

To the 58<sup>th</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
April 29 – May 2, 2009

54 **RESOLVED:** That the pastors and congregations of The South Dakota District encourage members of  
55 congregations to consider funding endowments and/or giving bequests to The South  
56 Dakota District that will enable support of Gospel mission and ministry work even after  
57 the Lord has called these faithful stewards to their heavenly home.  
58

59 Respectfully Submitted,  
60

61  
62 \_\_\_\_\_  
63 Reverend J. Bradford Urbach, Chairman  
64

65  
66 \_\_\_\_\_  
67 Reverend Christopher Boehnke  
68

69  
70 \_\_\_\_\_  
71 Mrs. Dianne Diekmann  
72

73  
74 \_\_\_\_\_  
75 Mr. Larry Raad  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106

---

1 **RESOLUTION:** 2-06A  
2

3 **SUBJECT:** CONCORDIA PLAN SERVICES AND EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTERS  
4

5 **WHEREAS,** Concordia Plan Services was created by Synod “to provide for its faithful servants when  
6 they retired from full-time ministry. . . [and] to assist church workers in coping with the  
7 financial aspects of illness, injury and death.” Concordia Plans “provide comprehensive  
8 retirement, health, disability, and survivor coverage.” AND  
9

10 **WHEREAS,** These plans continue to be a great blessing to churches and church workers. The  
11 challenge is that the requirements of these plans do not fit workers who are part time or  
12 who will not be working for the church their whole lives. Concordia Plan Services state:  
13 “Ministry is a life-long vocation for pastors and teachers, as well as for many lay workers.  
14 Through the Concordia Plans, caring congregations, schools, and special ministry  
15 organizations provide their workers and their families with an excellent comprehensive  
16 program of employee benefits.” (all quotes from Concordia Plan Services’ website  
17 <http://www.concordiaplans.org/PrintDetail.aspx?ID=298>); AND  
18

19 **WHEREAS,** The problem is that many childcare workers do this for a period of time and then go on to  
20 other opportunities. As the retirement plan is structured, congregations or schools have  
21 to pay into the employee’s retirement plan as soon as they work more than twenty hours  
22 a week for more than five months of continuous service but the worker will not receive  
23 any benefit until they are vested which is at five years of service. So a church could be  
24 paying in hundreds of dollars for each employee for which that employee may not receive  
25 any benefit. The Plans also offer a 403(b) tax-deferred savings plan which involves  
26 deductions from payroll which are matched by the church; AND  
27

28 **WHEREAS,** Concordia Plan Services exists to help people in the life-long vocations of ministry; AND  
29

30 **WHEREAS,** Many who work in Early Childhood Centers are not involved in life-long vocations but  
31 work for a period of time and will most likely not receive any benefit from the retirement  
32 plan because of the requirement of being vested which takes five years; AND  
33

34 **WHEREAS,** The Plans define full time workers as those who work more than twenty hours a week for  
35 more than five months of continuous service for the Retirement Plan as well as the  
36 Disability and Survivor Plan, and the Plans define full time workers for the Health Plan at  
37 more than 30 hours a week and more than five months of continuous service;  
38 THEREFORE BE IT  
39

40 **RESOLVED:** That the South Dakota District encourage the Board of Directors of the Concordia Plans  
41 to change several requirements for the Plans:  
42

43 A: define full time service for all plans at more than 35 hours a week with more  
44 than five months of continuous service;

45 B: define full time service for the Concordia Retirement Plan as needing a full  
46 year of service before the ability to enter the plan but full time service for the  
47 Concordia Retirement Savings Plan (403(b)) be after five months; AND BE IT  
48 FINALLY  
49

50 **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Directors of the Concordia Plans *be petitioned to* give the option for  
51 congregations, schools and other organizations to define full time service at lower  
52 number of hours per week if the organizations so choose.  
53

---

To the 58<sup>th</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
April 29 – May 2, 2009

54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Reverend J. Bradford Urbach, Chairman

---

Reverend Christopher Boehnke

---

Mrs. Dianne Diekmann

---

Mr. Larry Raad

---

To the 58<sup>th</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
April 29 – May 2, 2009

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-07 (CW, pp. 58-64)**

2  
3 **SUBJECT:** TO THANK THE DISTRICT SERVICE AREAS

4  
5 **WHEREAS,** The current members of the four service areas which consist of: Youth, Reverend Randy  
6 Sturzenbecher; Young Adult, Reverend Tim Rynearson, Outreach Services, Reverend  
7 Chris Boehnke; and Parish Services, Reverend Scott Spiehs; have faithfully served since  
8 2006; AND

9  
10 **WHEREAS,** In the area of Parish Services; Reverend Jonathan Watt has faithfully served in  
11 Education; Reverend Chris Ascher in Stewardship; AND

12  
13 **WHEREAS,** Reports have been submitted in these ministry service areas; THEREFORE BE IT

14  
15 **RESOLVED:** That we receive these reports in thanksgiving to God; AND BE IT FINALLY

16  
17 **RESOLVED:** That we thank the above for their faithful partnership in the Gospel by rising to sing “We  
18 Give Thee But Thine Own” LSB 781, st. 1 & 2

19  
20 We give Thee but Thine own,  
21 Whate'er the gift may be;  
22 All that we have is Thine a-lone,  
23 A trust, O lord, from Thee.

24  
25 May we Thy bounties thus  
26 As stewards true receive  
27 And gladly, as Thou blessest us,  
28 To Thee our firstfruits give!

29  
30 Respectfully Submitted,

31  
32  
33 \_\_\_\_\_  
34 Reverend J. Bradford Urbach, Chairman

35  
36  
37 \_\_\_\_\_  
38 Reverend Christopher Boehnke

39  
40  
41 \_\_\_\_\_  
42 Mrs. Dianne Diekmann

43  
44  
45 \_\_\_\_\_  
46 Mr. Larry Raad  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54

To the 58<sup>th</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
April 29 – May 2, 2009

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-08 (Executive Secretary's Report, CW, pp. 57-58)**

2  
3 **SUBJECT:** TO THANK THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

4  
5 **WHEREAS:** Our Executive Secretary, the Reverend David Schwan, has carried out his many duties  
6 and tasks in a faithful and evangelical manner to extend the Lord's kingdom; AND

7  
8 **WHEREAS:** Reverend Schwan has taken special leadership in directing the Lay Leadership Institute,  
9 and, along with Reverend Wesley Hafner, is a leader in the "Congregational Refocusing"  
10 program; THEREFORE LET IT BE

11  
12 **RESOLVED:** That we thank God for the servant-leader position of Executive Secretary in our District  
13 and that we show our appreciation to Reverend Schwan with a rising vote of thanks.

14  
15 Respectfully Submitted,

16  
17  
18  
19  
20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 Reverend J. Bradford Urbach, Chairman

22  
23  
24  
25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 Reverend Christopher Boehnke

27  
28  
29  
30 \_\_\_\_\_  
31 Mrs. Dianne Diekmann

32  
33  
34  
35 \_\_\_\_\_  
36 Mr. Larry Raad

37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54

To the 58<sup>th</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
April 29 – May 2, 2009

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-09 (CW, pp. 65-69)**

2  
3 **SUBJECT:** TO RECOGNIZE WITH THANKSGIVING THE SPECIAL MINISTRIES OF THE SOUTH  
4 DAKOTA DISTRICT

5  
6 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Wayne Steensma, District Archivist, who continues to maintain the District Archives  
7 (report on page 65 of the Convention Manual); AND

8  
9 **WHEREAS,** Pastor Orlett D. Brack who served faithfully as the South Dakota District Hospital  
10 Chaplain in Sioux Falls from April 1989 to November 2006; AND

11  
12 **WHEREAS,** Pastor Matthew Nix, who continues to serve in that capacity (report on page 66 of the  
13 Convention Manual); AND

14  
15 **WHEREAS,** Mr. Randy Gayken has managed successfully the Church Extension Fund, which during  
16 the last triennium has offered new investment opportunities and shown increases in both  
17 the number of investors and net assets of the Church Extension Fund, enabling more  
18 congregations to move ahead in partnership (report on page 66-68 of the Convention  
19 Manual); AND

20  
21 **WHEREAS,** Pastor Howard Shane, Pastor Scott Sailer, Pastor Brad Urbach *and Pastor Keith*  
22 *Bicknase* have provided opportunities for professional growth for the pastors of the  
23 District, through their work on the Continuing Education Committee (report on page 68 of  
24 the Convention Manual); AND

25  
26 **WHEREAS,** Pastor Scott Sailer has faithfully served as chairman of the Church Worker Education  
27 Debt Assistance (CWEDA) Committee, which has provided grants to church workers  
28 (report on page 69 of the Convention Manual); THEREFORE BE IT

29  
30 **RESOLVED:** That we accept these reports provided by the Special Ministries and BE IT FINALLY

31  
32 **RESOLVED:** That we thank God for these servants and show our appreciation by rising and singing  
33 "Now Thank We All Our God."

34  
35 Now thank we all our God  
36 With hearts and hands and voices,  
37 Who wondrous things has done,  
38 In whom his world rejoices;  
39 Who from our mothers' arms  
40 Has blest us on our way  
41 With countless gifts of love  
42 And still is ours today.

43  
44 Respectfully Submitted,

45  
46  
47  
48 \_\_\_\_\_  
49 Reverend J. Bradford Urbach, Chairman

50  
51  
52 \_\_\_\_\_  
53 Reverend Christopher Boehnke

To the 58<sup>th</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
April 29 – May 2, 2009

54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106

---

Mrs. Dianne Diekmann

---

Mr. Larry Raad

---

To the 58<sup>th</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
April 29 – May 2, 2009

1 **RESOLUTION: 2-10**

2  
3 **SUBJECT:** TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, YANKTON IN A  
4 TIME OF NEED

5  
6 **WHEREAS,** The family of St. John's Lutheran Church of Yankton, SD suffered an enormous amount  
7 of damage to their church structure on Saturday morning the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, 2009 A.D.' AND  
8

9 **WHEREAS,** It has caused a temporary movement to multiple locations for worship, for their Preschool  
10 and for their staff offices; AND

11  
12 **WHEREAS,** The parish has rallied by the grace of God with a determined spirit in the midst of this  
13 heavy hearted moment; AND

14  
15 **WHEREAS,** The theme of our Fifty-Eighth South Dakota District Convention is "Called into  
16 Partnership"; AND

17  
18 **WHEREAS,** In that spirit of partnership the proceeds from the Convention's Opening Service will be  
19 designated to Immanuel Lutheran of Wecota whose church was destroyed by a fire in  
20 February of 2008 and who have already rebuilt a new church; THEREFORE BE IT  
21

22 **RESOLVED:** That the 115 congregations of The South Dakota District who are "Called into  
23 Partnership" with each other *be encouraged* to gather free will offerings during the month  
24 of May culminating on Sunday May 31, the Day of Pentecost, AND BE IT FURTHER  
25

26 **RESOLVED:** That in these Sundays of Easter leading up to the "Day of Pentecost" that we all be  
27 mightily *encouraged to be* prayerful for Pastors David Gunderson and Steve  
28 Weispfennig, the entire staff of St. John's Lutheran and all the members of the  
29 congregation, that by the power of the Holy Spirit they shall be encouraged for the days  
30 ahead as they rebuild their beloved church; AND BE IT FINALLY  
31

32 **RESOLVED:** That we thank God, the Father Almighty for the (1882 A.D.) 127 year history of St. John's  
33 Lutheran in Yankton, SD by rising and singing "Church of God, Elect and Glorious."  
34

35 Church of God, elect and glorious  
36 Holy nation, chosen race;  
37 Called as God's own special people;  
38 Royal priests and heirs of grace:  
39 Know the purpose of your calling,  
40 Show to all His mighty deeds;  
41 Tell of love that knows no limits,  
42 Grace that meets all human needs.  
43

44 Church of God, elect and holy  
45 Be the people He intends;  
46 Strong in faith and swift to answer  
47 Each command your Master sends:  
48 Royal priests, fulfill your calling  
49 Through your sacrifice and prayer;  
50 Give your lives in joyful service  
51 Sing His praise, His love declare.  
52  
53  
54

---

To the 58<sup>th</sup> Convention of  
The South Dakota District of  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
April 29 – May 2, 2009

55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Reverend J. Bradford Urbach, Chairman

---

Reverend Christopher Boehnke

---

Mrs. Dianne Diekmann

---

Mr. Larry Raad

---