

Resolutions

Floor Committee # 1-Theology, Worship, and Church Relations

To Give Thanks for Concordia University, Nebraska and Encourage Active Participation of Nebraska Association of Congregations for Concordia (NACC)

Resolution #1.01

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1.01 (*Proposed Resolutions—page 1*)

Overture #1.01 from Workbook (*Overtures—page 1*)

- WHEREAS, Concordia University has been used by the Lord for the past 115 years to prepare Christian servants for the church and the world; and
- WHEREAS, The board of regents, the administration, the faculty, and the staff of Concordia University, Nebraska strive daily to have the university serve as a model for Christ-like servant leadership in a diverse, contemporary culture and be among the leading regional liberal arts universities in its class; and
- WHEREAS, God has located this blessing among the congregations of the Nebraska District as a partner in ministry; and
- WHEREAS, Concordia University, Nebraska has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* in its “America’s Best Colleges” edition; and
- WHEREAS, 131 of the 247 congregations of the Nebraska District have joined together to support the work of the University through the Nebraska Association of Congregations for Concordia; therefore, let it be
- RESOLVED, That all of the congregations of the Nebraska District give thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ for His gift to the Church in Concordia University, Nebraska; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That all of the congregations of the Nebraska District actively identify and encourage congregational members of all ages to consider Concordia University, Nebraska as a possibility for their undergraduate and/or graduate education for both professional church work careers and careers in the secular workplace; and be it finally
- RESOLVED, That all of the congregations of the Nebraska District prayerfully consider holding membership in the Nebraska Association of Congregations for Concordia in order to provide the appropriate congregational support for the University and the students of our congregations that attend.

Action: Adopted

To Encourage Lay Leadership Education

Resolution #1.02

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1.02 (*Proposed Resolutions—pages 1-2*)

Overture #1.03 from Workbook (*Overtures—page 2*)

- WHEREAS, The people of God who have been transformed by the mercies of God are to offer themselves in service to God and others (Romans 12:1-2); and
- WHEREAS, God’s people have gifts that differ according to the grace given them (Romans 12:6); and
- WHEREAS, The Scriptures exhort the people of God as good stewards to use their gifts to serve one another (1 Peter 4:10); and
- WHEREAS, Pagans who see the servant actions of God’s people have been moved to glorify God (1 Peter 2:12); and
- WHEREAS, The Church in the United States today is in ministry in a society that is hurting, fearful, and at times hostile to the Gospel; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That congregations be encouraged to identify leadership gifts of members; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That leaders of congregations be encouraged to be intentional in equipping lay leaders; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That called workers and lay leaders consider forming teams for particular kinds of service, such as outreach, assimilation, family nurture, and personal growth; and be it finally
- RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District staff continue to offer assistance to congregations desiring to equip laity through the Lay Leadership Program.

Tabled/Died for lack of action

To Acknowledge *Issues, Etc.*

Resolution #1.03

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1.03 (*Proposed Resolutions—page 2*)

Overtures #1.02, #1.04, and #1.05 from Workbook (*Overtures—pages 1-3*)

- WHEREAS, The mission statement of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is “In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of the LCMS is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by Word and deed within our churches, communities, and world;” and
- WHEREAS, For nearly 15 years the radio program *Issues, Etc.* has reached audiences with the Gospel through radio stations KFUE-AM in St. Louis, and other radio stations such as KNGN-AM in McCook, Nebraska, broadcasted nationally via the Bott radio network, and was accessible around the world via the Internet and podcasts; and
- WHEREAS, *Issues, Etc.* demonstrates a strong commitment to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and
- WHEREAS, *Issues, Etc.* is now being produced independently and is broadcast on the internet and on KNGN; and
- WHEREAS, *Issues, Etc.* is “*Christ-centered, cross-focused talk radio*” (*Issues, Etc.* website); and
- WHEREAS, *Issues, Etc.* encourages listeners to make use of the resources from Concordia Publishing House (CPH) by promoting a “book of the month” from CPH; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District in convention express gratitude to Mr. Jeff Schwarz and Rev. Todd Wilken for their commitment to “*Christ-centered, cross-focused talk radio*” (*Issues, Etc.* website); and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District in convention encourage the people of its congregations to prayerfully consider financial and other support for this program; and be it finally
- RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District in convention express to the LCMS its disappointment in the cancelling of *Issues, Etc.*

Action: Adopted as amended

(By amendment, the words “financial and other” were inserted after the word “consider” in the second resolved; the words “in the past has demonstrated” were replaced with the word “demonstrates” in the third whereas; the words “promotes itself as” were replaced with the word “is” in the fifth whereas; and added a third resolved, “That the Nebraska District in convention express to the LCMS its disappointment in the cancelling of *Issues, Etc.*”)

Floor Committee # 2-Administration

To Realign Circuits Resolution #2.01

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2.01 (*Proposed Resolutions—pages 3-4*)

Overture #2.02 from Workbook (*Overtures—pages 5-6*)

WHEREAS, Bylaw 5.1.1 of the 2007 Handbook of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod states: Each circuit shall consist of 7 to 20 member congregations involving an aggregate communicant membership from 1,500 to 10,000.

(a) Exceptions to these requirements and limitations can be made only by the President of the Synod.

(b) Exceptions must be requested by the district board of directors; and

WHEREAS, The Nebraska District LCMS Board of Directors requested exceptions to these requirements for two circuits for both the 2004 and 2007 Conventions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The Nebraska District LCMS Board of Directors on September 8, 2006, appointed a Circuit Realignment Task Force to research, analyze, and make recommendations for the realignment of circuits in the Nebraska District LCMS; and

WHEREAS, This Circuit Realignment Task Force has completed a thorough survey and analysis of the circuits of the Nebraska District LCMS and provided recommendations to the Nebraska District LCMS Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, The 2003 Nebraska District LCMS Bylaw III.E states:

E. Regions and Areas

1. The District shall be divided into four (4) regions, which shall be the congregations of the circuits as listed in the following manner:

- a. Region A: McCook, Holdrege, Hastings, Kearney, Grand Island, Western Sandhills
- b. Region B: York, Lincoln, Deshler, Beatrice, Falls City, Seward
- c. Region C: Ainsworth, Plainview, Norfolk, Wayne, West Point
- d. Region D: Columbus, Fremont, Omaha North, Omaha South, Omaha West

2. The District shall be divided into areas as follows:

- a. Area I: Regions A-B
- b. Area II: Regions C-D; and

WHEREAS, The 2003 Nebraska District Bylaw V states:

V. Amendments to the Bylaws may be made, provided they are:

- A. In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the laws of the State of Nebraska.
- B. Submitted to the District Constitution Committee and the Synod Commission on Constitutional Matters for clearance prior to presentation to the convention.
- C. Presented in writing to a convention of the District.
- D. Adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting; and

WHEREAS, This proposal was submitted to the District Constitution Committee and the Synod Commission on Constitutional Matters. On September 15, 2008, the District Constitution Committee approved the proposal as constitutional; and on November 20-21, 2008, the Synod Commission on Constitutional Matters found the proposal to be in harmony with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Resolutions of the Synod; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District in convention approve the following circuit realignment proposal:

Falls City Circuit—Move St. Paul Lutheran Church, Weeping Water, and Christ Lutheran Church, Nebraska City, from the Omaha South Circuit into the Falls City Circuit

Beatrice Circuit—Move Grace Lutheran Church, Fairbury, and Trinity Lutheran Church of Jansen out of the Beatrice Circuit and into the Deshler Circuit. Also move Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Crete, and St. John Lutheran Church, Crete, into the proposed Lincoln South Circuit

Deshler Circuit—Move Grace Lutheran Church, Fairbury, and Trinity Lutheran Church of Jansen out of the Beatrice Circuit and into the Deshler Circuit

Hastings Circuit—Move Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin, from the Holdrege Circuit into the Hastings Circuit

Holdrege Circuit—Move Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin, into the Hastings Circuit

Lincoln Circuit—Divide the Lincoln Circuit into two circuits with nine congregations forming the North Circuit and eight congregations the South Circuit, and Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Crete, and St. John Lutheran Church, Crete, being added to the Lincoln South Circuit. Congregations forming the two circuits are as follows:

Lincoln North

Immanuel, Eagle	Christ, Lincoln
Trinity, Lincoln	St. Paul, Malcolm
Holy Savior, Lincoln	Trinity, Walton
Faith, Lincoln	Peace, Waverly
	Word of Life, Lincoln

Lincoln South

Calvary, Lincoln	Good Shepherd, Lincoln
Messiah, Lincoln	Immanuel, Lincoln
Bethlehem, Pleasant Dale	Faith of Our Fathers, Roca
Bethlehem, Crete	St. John, Crete

Omaha Circuits—Place the Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mission into the Omaha South Circuit and move Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Springfield, from Omaha West into the Omaha South Circuit

Wayne and West Point Circuits—Move First Trinity Lutheran Church of Altona that is a dual parish with St. John Lutheran Church, Pilger, from the Wayne Circuit into the West Point Circuit where St. John Lutheran is located; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That 2003 Nebraska District LCMS Bylaw III.E be changed to state:

E. Regions and Areas

The District shall be divided into four (4) regions, which shall be the congregations of the circuits as listed in the following manner:

- a. Region A: McCook, Holdrege, Hastings, Kearney, Grand Island, Western Sandhills
- b. Region B: York, Lincoln North, Lincoln South, Deshler, Beatrice, Falls City, Seward
- c. Region C: Ainsworth, Plainview, Norfolk, Wayne, West Point
- d. Region D: Columbus, Fremont, Omaha North, Omaha South, Omaha West

The District shall be divided into areas as follows:

- a. Area I: Regions A-B
- b. Area II: Regions C-D

Action: Adopted

**To Form a Task Force to Explore Collaboration and Partnership Ministry
With Neighboring LCMS Districts**

Resolution #2.02

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2.02 (*Proposed Resolutions—page 5*)

Overture #2.03 from Workbook (*Overtures—pages 6-7*)

- WHEREAS, The changing setting in which the Nebraska District LCMS has been called to resource congregations, leaders, and related organizations in their mission of discipling the saved and proclaiming Christ to a lost and changing world gives call for regular and thorough review of both the new mission opportunities God is providing and the efficiency of District service; and
- WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is examining its structure and governance with the same criteria; and
- WHEREAS, Possible realignment of districts and regionalization of districts is still in the future; and
- WHEREAS, The new mission opportunities and need for efficiency call for addressing at this time; and
- WHEREAS, The Nebraska District LCMS and neighboring Kansas District, Iowa District West, South Dakota District, and Wyoming District presently collaborate in various ways to provide human care ministries, pastoral vacancy service, educational resourcing, as well as offering invitations to one another to participate in conferences and events; and
- WHEREAS, the Kansas District has invited collaboration and partnership ministry with the Nebraska District; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District LCMS in convention instruct its Board of Directors to encourage the formation of separate task forces to explore possible collaboration with the Kansas District, Iowa District West, South Dakota District, and Wyoming District; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District LCMS in convention also instruct its Board of Directors to encourage formation of a common task force with the Kansas District, Iowa District West, South Dakota District, and Wyoming District to consider multi-district collaboration and partnerships in ministry; and be it finally
- RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District LCMS in convention grant its Board of Directors the authority to coordinate and implement those actions with one or more of the aforementioned districts and/or an association of these districts for collaborative efforts and partnership ministries, to make use of God-given resources and cooperative work where it best serves each District and the work of our Lord together.

Action: Adopted

To Thank God and Encourage Support for Walking Together Lutheran Ministries

Resolution #2.03

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2.03 (*Proposed Resolutions—pages 5-6*)

Overture #2.01 from Workbook (*Overtures—page 4*)

- WHEREAS, There are immense, unmet spiritual and human care needs among both the recent immigrant populations of the Omaha metro (approaching 20% of the population), and the many long-term residents of the Omaha metro experiencing the effects of poverty and the economic downturn; and
- WHEREAS, The Nebraska District of the LCMS purchased the former Zion+Peace campuses in south Omaha and has enabled the establishment of a Sudanese congregation in the former Peace building and has encouraged the work of a task force to begin programs of evangelistic human care in the former Zion building; and
- WHEREAS, The result of the work of the task force has been the creation of a non-profit entity, “Walking Together Lutheran Ministries” hereinafter “WTLM,” which is in the process of incorporating and seeking IRS 501(c)(3) status and ultimate RSO status with the LCMS; and
- WHEREAS, The vision of WTLM is for LCMS congregations and individuals, organizations and allies, businesses and business people, all joining hands to fulfill the Great Commission among those immigrating to and already living in the Omaha metro; and

- WHEREAS, The vision of WTLM is also for existing congregations to be strengthened through its members serving the needs of people, and developing new worshipping congregations in underserved areas of the Omaha metro; and
- WHEREAS, The vision of WTLM is also for the human needs of many to be met through both the words of the Gospel and deeds of Christian love and concern; and
- WHEREAS, The use of both the former Zion campus, now renamed the Tree of Life Center, and other locations in the Omaha metro provide opportunities for this vision to become realized; and
- WHEREAS, A spirit of cooperation and collaboration is growing among the LCMS congregations of the Omaha metro to work jointly and walk together to fulfill the Great Commission locally; and
- WHEREAS, The funding of WTLM will need a combination of grants and gifts from organizations, foundations, synodical auxiliaries, the Nebraska District, congregations, business partners, major donors, and others; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District of the LCMS give thanks to God for the opportunities for mission and ministry that are being developed through Walking Together Lutheran Ministries; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District of the LCMS encourage its congregations in the Omaha metro to support enthusiastically the programs of WTLM through prayer, financial support, and encouragement of its members to volunteer in the programs and activities of evangelistic human care; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District encourage WTLM to seek the assistance of the District, the auxiliaries of the Synod, and other synodical resources, with specific requests and grant proposals as appropriate; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District encourage all of its congregations to consider WTLM as an opportunity for its members to organize mission trips of Christian service; and be it finally
- RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District give thanks to God and further encourage the spirit of cooperation and collaboration which is growing among the LCMS Omaha metro congregations.

Action: Adopted

**To Recommend the Re-establishment of the Board for Stewardship for LCMS
Resolution #2.04**

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2.04 (*Proposed Resolutions—page 6*)

Overture #2.04 from Workbook (*Overtures—page 8*)

- WHEREAS, Resolution 4-03 of the 1992 LCMS Convention restructured the Department of Stewardship and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation; and
- WHEREAS, That restructuring caused stewardship ministry in the LCMS to have a less influential voice; and
- WHEREAS, Resolution 2-07A of the 2001 LCMS Convention, in an attempt to increase stewardship influence, re-established the Department of Stewardship under the Board for District and Congregational Services; and
- WHEREAS, Resolution 4-01 of the 2004 Convention called for a “Stewardship *Ablaze!*” emphasis to raise awareness of faithful stewardship in all of the congregations; and
- WHEREAS, Resolution 4-02 of the 2007 Convention indicated that The Blue Ribbon Task Force for Funding the Mission identified a significant need in our LCMS to strengthen the areas of stewardship in the life of every Christian within our church body; and
- WHEREAS, Resolution 4-02 mandated the coordination of national and district leaders and other assisting entities in the development of resources, training, and strategic components for an expanding stewardship renewal in the life of our church; and
- WHEREAS, Resolution 4-02 to begin a stewardship renewal through enhanced communication was adopted in convention; and
- WHEREAS, The Director of Stewardship Ministry of the LCMS will have a greater influence to help guide stewardship renewal in the LCMS functioning at the executive staff level; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District in Convention encourage the LCMS, at the 2010 Synodical Convention, to re-establish the Board of Stewardship, elevating the director of LCMS stewardship ministries to executive staff level reporting to the LCMS President/Board of Directors.

Action: Adopted