

Proposed Resolutions

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

1 **Proposed Resolution #1.01**

2 **To Give Thanks for Concordia University, Nebraska and Encourage Active Participation of** 3 **Nebraska Association of Congregations for Concordia (NACC)**

4 **Overture #1.01 from Workbook**

5 WHEREAS, Concordia University has been used by the Lord for the past 115 years to prepare
6 Christian servants for the church and the world; and

7 WHEREAS, The board of regents, the administration, the faculty, and the staff of Concordia
8 University, Nebraska strive daily to have the university serve as a model for Christ-
9 like servant leadership in a diverse, contemporary culture and be among the leading
10 regional liberal arts universities in its class; and

11 WHEREAS, God has located this blessing among the congregations of the Nebraska District as a
12 partner in ministry; and

13 WHEREAS, Concordia University, Nebraska has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report*
14 in its "America's Best Colleges" edition; and

15 WHEREAS, 129 of the 247 congregations of the Nebraska District have joined together to
16 support the work of the University through the Nebraska Association of
17 Congregations for Concordia; therefore, let it be

18 RESOLVED, That all of the congregations of the Nebraska District give thanks to the Lord Jesus
19 Christ for His gift to the Church in Concordia University, Nebraska; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That all of the congregations of the Nebraska District actively identify and
22 encourage congregational members of all ages to consider Concordia University,
23 Nebraska as a possibility for their undergraduate and/or graduate education for both
24 professional church work careers and careers in the secular workplace; and be it
25 finally

26 RESOLVED, That all of the congregations of the Nebraska District prayerfully consider holding
27 membership in the Nebraska Association of Congregations for Concordia in order
28 to provide the appropriate congregational support for the University and the
29 students of our congregations that attend.

1 **Proposed Resolution #1.02**

2 **To Encourage Lay Leadership Education**

3 **Overture #1.03 from Workbook**

4 WHEREAS, The people of God who have been transformed by the mercies of God are to offer
5 themselves in service to God and others (Romans 12:1-2); and

6 WHEREAS, God's people have gifts that differ according to the grace given them (Romans
7 12:6); and

8 WHEREAS, The Scriptures exhort the people of God as good stewards to use their gifts to serve
9 one another (1 Peter 4:10); and

10 WHEREAS, Pagans who see the servant actions of God's people have been moved to glorify
11 God (1 Peter 2:12); and

12 WHEREAS, The Church in the United States today is in ministry in a society that is hurting,
13 fearful, and at times hostile to the Gospel; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That congregations be encouraged to identify leadership gifts of members; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That leaders of congregations be encouraged to be intentional in equipping lay
17 leaders; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That called workers and lay leaders consider forming teams for particular kinds of

18 service, such as outreach, assimilation, family nurture, and personal growth; and be
19 it finally
20 RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District staff continue to offer assistance to congregations
21 desiring to equip laity through the Lay Leadership Program.

1 **Proposed Resolution #1.03**

2 **To Acknowledge *Issues, Etc.***

3 **Overtures #1.02, #1.04, and #1.05 from Workbook**

4 WHEREAS, The mission statement of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is “In grateful
5 response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and
6 Sacraments, the mission of the LCMS is vigorously to make known the love of
7 Christ by Word and deed within our churches, communities, and world;” and
8 WHEREAS, For nearly 15 years the radio program *Issues, Etc.* has reached audiences with the
9 Gospel through radio stations KFUE-AM in St. Louis, and other radio stations
10 such as KNGN-AM in McCook, Nebraska, broadcasted nationally via the Bott
11 radio network, and was accessible around the world via the Internet and podcasts;
12 and
13 WHEREAS, *Issues, Etc.* is now being produced independently and is broadcast on the internet
14 and on KNGN; and
15 WHEREAS, *Issues, Etc.* promotes itself as “Christ-centered, cross-focused talk radio;” and
16 WHEREAS, *Issues, Etc.* encourages listeners to make use of the resources from Concordia
17 Publishing House (CPH) by promoting a “book of the month” from CPH; therefore
18 be it
19 RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District in convention express gratitude to Mr. Jeff Schwarz and
20 Rev. Todd Wilken for their dedication to “Christ-centered, cross-focused talk
21 radio.”

Floor Committee # 2-Administration

1 **Proposed Resolution #2.01**

2 **To Realign Circuits**

3 **Overture #2.02 from Workbook**

4 WHEREAS, Bylaw 5.1.1 of the 2007 Handbook of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
5 states:

6 Each circuit shall consist of 7 to 20 member congregations involving an aggregate
7 communicant membership from 1,500 to 10,000.

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

10 (b) Exceptions must be requested by the district board of directors; and
11 WHEREAS, The Nebraska District LCMS Board of Directors requested exceptions to these
12 requirements for two circuits for both the 2004 and 2007 Conventions of The
13 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

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

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

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

21 E. Regions and Areas

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

25 a. Region A: McCook, Holdrege, Hastings, Kearney,
26 Grand Island, Western Sandhills

27 b. Region B: York, Lincoln, Deshler, Beatrice, Falls
28 City, Seward

29 c. Region C: Ainsworth, Plainview, Norfolk, Wayne,
30 West Point

31 d. Region D: Columbus, Fremont, Omaha North,
32 Omaha South, Omaha West

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

34 a. Area I: Regions A-B

35 b. Area II: Regions C-D; and

36 WHEREAS, The 2003 Nebraska District Bylaw V states:

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

38 A. In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran
39 Church—Missouri Synod and the laws of the State of Nebraska.

40 B. Submitted to the District Constitution Committee and the Synod
41 Commission on Constitutional Matters for clearance prior to
42 presentation to the convention.

43 C. Presented in writing to a convention of the District.

44 D. Adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates present
45 and voting; and

46 WHEREAS, This proposal was submitted to the District Constitution Committee and the Synod
47 Commission on Constitutional Matters. On September 15, 2008, the District
48 Constitution Committee approved the proposal as constitutional; and on November
49 20-21, 2008, the Synod Commission on Constitutional Matters found the proposal
50 to be in harmony with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Resolutions of the Synod;
51 therefore be it

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

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1. 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
2. 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
3. Deshler Circuit—Move Grace Lutheran Church, Fairbury, and Trinity Lutheran Church of Jansen out of the Beatrice Circuit and into the Deshler Circuit
4. Hastings Circuit—Move Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin, from the Holdrege Circuit into the Hastings Circuit
5. Holdrege Circuit—Move Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin, into the Hastings Circuit
6. 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

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

Lincoln South

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

7. 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
8. 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

1 **Proposed Resolution #2.02**
2 **To Form a Task Force to Explore Collaboration and Partnership Ministry With Neighboring**
3 **LCMS Districts**

4 **Overture #2.03 from Workbook**

5 RE: WHEREAS, The changing setting in which the Nebraska District LCMS has
6 been called to resource congregations, leaders, and related organizations in their
7 mission of discipling the saved and proclaiming Christ to a lost and changing world
8 gives call for regular and thorough review of both the new mission opportunities
9 God is providing and the efficiency of District service; and
10 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is examining its structure and governance
11 with the same criteria; and
12 WHEREAS, Possible realignment of districts and regionalization of districts is still in the future;
13 and
14 WHEREAS, The new mission opportunities and need for efficiency call for addressing at this
15 time; and
16 WHEREAS, The Nebraska District LCMS and neighboring Kansas District, Iowa District West,
17 South Dakota District, and Wyoming District presently collaborate in various ways
18 to provide human care ministries, pastoral vacancy service, educational resourcing,
19 as well as offering invitations to one another to participate in conferences and
20 events; and
21 WHEREAS, the Kansas District has invited collaboration and partnership ministry with the Ne-
22 braska District; therefore be it
23 RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District LCMS in convention instruct its Board of Directors to
24 encourage the formation of separate task forces to explore possible collaboration
25 with the Kansas District, Iowa District West, South Dakota District, and Wyoming
26 District; and be it further
27 RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District LCMS in convention also instruct its Board of Directors
28 to encourage formation of a common task force with the Kansas District, Iowa Dis-
29 trict West, South Dakota District, and Wyoming District to consider multi-district
30 collaboration and partnerships in ministry; and be it finally
31 RESOLVED, That the Nebraska District LCMS in convention grant its Board of Directors the
32 authority to coordinate and implement those actions with one or more of the afore-
33 mentioned districts and/or an association of these districts for collaborative efforts
34 and partnership ministries, to make use of God-given resources and cooperative
35 work where it best serves each District and the work of our Lord together.

1 **Proposed Resolution #2.03**
2 **To Thank God and Encourage Support for Walking Together Lutheran Ministries**

3 **Overture #2.01 from Workbook**

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

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

1 **Proposed Resolution #2.04**

2 **To Recommend the Re-establishment of the Board for Stewardship for LCMS Overture**

3 **#2.04 from Workbook**

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