

FLOOR COMMITTEE 6

Pastoral Ministry and Seminaries

Chairman and Amendment Guide - Portrait Print-Friendly Edition

KINGDOM OVER CASTLE | MISSIONAL | LOW CONTROL, HIGH ACCOUNTABILITY

Purpose: Help a delegate address the chairman, huddle with the delegation, create or refine amendment language, and speak to Floor Committee 6 resolutions with strong formation, clear doctrine, local usefulness, and accountable mission.

Source frame: Today's Business, Issue 1, Committee 6 proposed resolutions. These are proposed resolutions, not final convention action. Check the latest daily issue before moving anything.

One-sentence test

Does this amendment strengthen faithful pastoral formation for the sake of Christ's flock, while helping congregations receive well-formed pastors without unnecessary centralized control?

Five capitals delegate questions

Capital	Delegate question
Spiritual	Does it strengthen Word, Sacrament, confession, pastoral care, prayer, and theological formation?
Relational	Does it build trust among seminaries, districts, congregations, pastors, mentors, SMPs, and future workers?
Physical	Does it address where formation and ministry happen: seminaries, congregations, homes, fieldwork sites, and mission starts?
Intellectual	Does it deepen Scripture, Confessions, languages, doctrine, pastoral wisdom, and mission competence?
Financial	Does it make formation, tuition, compensation, continuing education, and support sustainable and transparent?

Christ frame

Pastoral formation is not a staffing pipeline first. It is the church's care for the flock of Christ. The risen Jesus still says, "Feed My sheep."

HOW TO ADDRESS THE CHAIRMAN

- Rise or enter the queue according to the standing rules.
- When recognized: "Mr. Chairman, Robert Bailey, Texas District, pastoral delegate."
- State the action first, then the reason briefly.
- Keep remarks about the resolution, not motives of people.

Motion phrases

- "Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 6-__ by..."
- "I speak in favor of the amendment because..."
- "I ask the floor committee whether this concern is already addressed..."
- "I request permission to withdraw or revise my amendment."

DELEGATION HUDDLE SCRIPT

- What problem are we trying to solve?
- Is the amendment narrow and germane?
- Does it preserve formation standards and improve local usefulness?
- Does it release spiritual, relational, physical, intellectual, or financial capital for Gospel witness?
- Does it create accountability without unnecessary control?
- Could this be handled by asking the floor committee a question instead of moving an amendment?

AMENDMENT WORKFLOW

Step	What to do	Example phrase
1. Identify	Name the exact resolve or location.	"In the second Resolved..."
2. Draft	Use clean insert, strike, or substitute language.	"Insert after the words..."
3. Explain	One doctrine point and one practical point.	"This protects formation and helps congregations..."
4. Huddle	Ask whether the delegation agrees it is worth floor time.	"Is this necessary, or only nice?"
5. Move	Address the chairman and state the amendment.	"Mr. Chairman, I move to amend..."
6. Speak	Support the amendment briefly and fraternally.	"This keeps low control with high accountability..."

COMMITTEE 6 DASHBOARD

Priority	Resolution	Why it matters
Highest	6-04 Residential formation	Protect robust formation while addressing barriers to access.
Highest	6-13 Pastoral compensation	Help congregations address sustainability before crisis.
High	6-09 SMP oversight	Needs timeline and usable deliverables.
High	6-07 SMP to GPC	Good pathway, but costs and completion need clarity.
High	6-10 Adjunct faculty	Preserve flexibility with doctrinal accountability.
High	6-12 Colloquy bylaws	Make the process public, plain, and pastoral.

MASTER AMENDMENT PARAGRAPH

Adapt this where implementation is vague or where local usefulness needs to be named:

Resolved, That implementation of this resolution preserve clear Lutheran doctrine and rigorous pastoral formation, serve the needs of congregations and mission fields, respect the proper roles of seminaries, districts, congregations, and the Council of Presidents, and provide a brief report before the 2029 convention describing resources created, pastors and candidates served, five capitals stewarded, and lessons learned.

Use when:

- A resolution protects formation standards but needs local mission access.
- A policy change needs a clear public guide or implementation timeline.
- An SMP or colloquy item needs care for pastors, congregations, and families.
- A financial or compensation item needs tools, transparency, and accountability.
- A thanksgiving resolution should become practical congregational care.

RESOLUTION-BY-RESOLUTION AMENDMENT CARDS

Each card gives a narrow amendment idea, why it helps, a five-capitals read, a microphone phrase, and one huddle question.

6-01 - Uphold Deep and Broad Study of Holy Scripture and the Book of Concord

Priority: Medium | **Castle risk:** Rigorous study could sound academic only unless tied directly to pastoral practice and lifelong learning.

Amendment idea

Add that seminaries connect study of Scripture, biblical languages, and the Confessions to preaching, catechesis, visitation, evangelism, mission, and care for wounded consciences; encourage districts and circuits to support lifelong study.

Why this helps

Keeps formation rigorous and pastoral. Greek, Hebrew, and the Confessions are not trophies. They are tools for feeding sheep.

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Better preaching, catechesis, absolution, Sacrament teaching
Relational	Circuit text studies and pastoral brotherhood
Physical	Seminary classrooms, circuit gatherings, online continuing-ed tools
Intellectual	Languages, exegesis, Confessions, Law/Gospel
Financial	Low-cost continuing education and district support

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by connecting rigorous Scripture and Confessions study to practical pastoral use and lifelong continuing education.

Delegation huddle question

Does this help formation serve actual preaching, teaching, visitation, and mission?

6-02 - Encourage Seminary Specialized Witness and Outreach Training

Priority: Medium | **Castle risk:** Training could be designed from the classroom without enough field input.

Amendment idea

Add consultation with pastors and congregations serving church plants, rural communities, urban contexts, campus ministries, military and institutional settings, immigrant and ethnic communities, and revitalization settings.

Why this helps

Mission training should listen to those actually serving disconnected people and challenging contexts.

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Evangelism rooted in Word, Sacrament, prayer, repentance, faith
Relational	Learn from planters, ethnic ministry leaders, campus pastors
Physical	Fieldwork in real mission settings
Intellectual	Apologetics, demographics, cross-cultural witness
Financial	Steward mission resources wisely

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding consultation with pastors and congregations serving actual mission fields.

Delegation huddle question

Does this training reflect real mission fields, not only classroom theory?

6-03 - Give Thanks for the Office of the Holy Ministry and Synod Pastors

Priority: Low | **Castle risk:** Thanksgiving could remain ceremonial without encouraging congregational care for pastors and families.

Amendment idea

Encourage congregations to give thanks through prayer, faithful reception of Word and Sacrament, support for continuing education, care for pastors' families, and healthy expectations for pastoral service.

Why this helps

Turns appreciation into concrete local care and healthier pastoral relationships.

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Pray for pastors and receive Christ's gifts faithfully
Relational	Encourage pastors and families
Physical	Protect time for rest, study, visitation, and family
Intellectual	Support continuing education
Financial	Budget for conferences, books, and fair support

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding congregational care through prayer, continuing education, family care, and healthy expectations.

Delegation huddle question

Does this help congregations thank pastors in practice, not only in words?

6-04 - Support Residential M.Div. and Alternate Route Formation for the Sake of the Flock

Priority: Highest | **Castle risk:** A strong defense of residential formation may ignore barriers of cost, housing, relocation, family needs, and underserved contexts.

Amendment idea
While affirming residential M.Div. and Alternate Route formation as the preferred and standard pathway for lifetime pastoral service, encourage seminaries, districts, and congregations to address barriers including cost, relocation, housing, family needs, second-career candidates, ethnic and immigrant contexts, and underserved regions; request a 2029 report on improving access without reducing standards.

Why this helps
Do not lower the bar. Build better stairs. This protects robust formation and faces mission reality.

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Preserve deep formation for Word and Sacrament ministry
Relational	Seminary community, mentoring, pastoral brotherhood
Physical	Housing, relocation, chapel life, field education
Intellectual	Full curriculum, languages, Confessions
Financial	Scholarships, housing help, district/congregation funding

Microphone phrase
I move to amend by addressing barriers to residential formation and requesting a 2029 access report without lowering standards.

Delegation huddle question
Does this protect formation while helping real men reach it?

6-05 - Reaffirm the Synod Process for Training and Certification for Pastors

Priority: Medium | **Castle risk:** Clear certification rules may still leave prospective students confused about non-approved programs and unusable credentials.

Amendment idea

Encourage seminaries and districts to communicate clearly with prospective students, congregations, and church workers about approved routes, non-approved programs, colloquy limitations, and pastoral formation expectations.

Why this helps

High accountability requires clarity before men spend years, tuition, and family energy on a path that does not lead to the roster.

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Protect doctrine and the call process
Relational	Build trust with students and congregations
Physical	Clear web pages and district conversations
Intellectual	Explain approved routes and colloquy limits
Financial	Prevent wasted tuition and family hardship

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding clear communication about approved routes, non-approved programs, colloquy limits, and formation expectations.

Delegation huddle question

Would a prospective student know before enrolling whether a program leads to LCMS certification?

6-06 - Affirm and Support Established Parameters of Specific Ministry Pastor Program

Priority: High | **Castle risk:** Restriction language could leave current SMP pastors and congregations feeling managed rather than cared for.

Amendment idea

Add pastoral care for current SMP pastors and congregations, clear communication about expectations and warranted exceptions, and regular evaluation of how the program serves specific contexts without becoming either a replacement for residential formation or a second-class pastoral status.

Why this helps

SMP is not a loophole and not a lesser species of pastor. This protects the program and honors those serving faithfully.

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Word and Sacrament ministry in specific contexts
Relational	Care for SMPs, mentors, congregations, DPs
Physical	Mission starts, rural parishes, ethnic communities
Intellectual	Clear policies, exceptions, evaluation
Financial	Support bivocational and local-context service

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding pastoral care, warranted exceptions, and evaluation language for current SMP pastors and congregations.

Delegation huddle question

Does this preserve SMP limits while honoring faithful SMP service?

6-07 - Encourage and Support SMPs to Pursue General Pastor Certification

Priority: High | **Castle risk:** Encouraging GPC without cost, scheduling, and family-impact clarity can become a noble idea with a foggy invoice.

Amendment idea
Add clear information on costs, scholarships, time commitments, scheduling, congregational support, family impact, and district responsibilities; request periodic summaries of participation, completion, barriers, and funding needs before 2029.

Why this helps
Makes a good pathway usable, sustainable, and accountable.

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Deepened theological formation
Relational	Congregation, district, seminary partnership
Physical	Evening courses, intensives, hybrid access
Intellectual	Greek, broader theology, pastoral readiness
Financial	Scholarships, tuition plans, district/congregation support

Microphone phrase
I move to amend by adding cost clarity, scholarship information, scheduling support, and reporting on completion and barriers.

Delegation huddle question
Does this make the pathway realistic for SMP pastors and families?

6-08 - Clarify Terminology for SMP Mentorship and Oversight

Priority: Medium | **Castle risk:** A technical word change may still be unclear to SMPs, mentors, DPs, circuit visitors, and congregations.

Amendment idea

Add that districts provide simple guidance explaining ecclesiastical supervision, oversight, and mentorship, with practical examples of responsibilities and limits.

Why this helps

Good terminology needs usable guidance. Clarity prevents conflict and pastoral confusion.

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Protect pastoral care and doctrinal accountability
Relational	Clarify trust among SMP, mentor, DP, congregation
Physical	Local ministry context and circuit relationships
Intellectual	Simple guide to roles and boundaries
Financial	Avoid process confusion and conflict costs

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding simple district guidance explaining supervision, oversight, and mentorship with practical examples.

Delegation huddle question

Would a congregation know who is responsible for what?

6-09 - Implore Council of Presidents to Fulfill 2019 Res. 6-03A re SMP Oversight

Priority: High | **Castle risk:** Imploring without a date or deliverable can become another unresolved assignment.

Amendment idea

Request a stated date before 2029 for a publicly available summary of completed SMP oversight and mentorship guidelines, training resources, implementation steps, and how districts will support mentors, SMPs, and congregations.

Why this helps

High accountability needs a timeline, a deliverable, and usable support.

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Faithful pastoral oversight and doctrine
Relational	Support mentors, SMPs, DPs, congregations
Physical	Training sessions and district materials
Intellectual	Guidelines and role clarity
Financial	Reduce confusion, conflict, and inconsistent oversight

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding a stated timeline and public summary of SMP oversight and mentorship guidelines and training resources.

Delegation huddle question

Does this move from request to accountable completion?

6-10 - Amend Bylaws to Address Seminary Adjunct Faculty

Priority: High | **Castle risk:** Too much control slows needed instruction, but too little clarity opens a side door into seminary formation.

Amendment idea

Require each seminary to maintain written policies for part-time and temporary faculty appointments, including doctrinal accountability, qualifications, appointment process, review process, scope of teaching responsibility, and reporting to the board of regents.

Why this helps

Preserves flexibility for timely instruction while ensuring doctrinal accountability and board awareness.

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Doctrinally faithful teaching
Relational	Trust between president, faculty, board, students
Physical	Classrooms and online course settings
Intellectual	Qualifications, review, course scope
Financial	Flexible staffing without hidden governance risk

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding written policies for adjunct appointment, doctrinal accountability, qualifications, review, teaching scope, and reporting.

Delegation huddle question

Does this keep flexibility and accountability together?

6-11 - Embed Church Work Formation and Recruitment in LCMS Culture

Priority: Medium | **Castle risk:** Recruitment plans may assume every congregation has a school, youth group, and staff team.

Amendment idea

Add that recruitment plans be scalable for small, rural, urban, mission-start, homeschool, and school-less congregations; include simple, low-cost tools for identifying, encouraging, mentoring, and supporting future pastors and commissioned workers.

Why this helps

Formation culture must be simple enough for a kitchen table, confirmation class, camp, or small parish.

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Pray for future church workers
Relational	Mentoring and encouragement
Physical	Schools, homes, camps, confirmation classes
Intellectual	Vocation curriculum and pathways
Financial	Scholarships and student aid

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding scalable, low-cost recruitment tools for congregations and schools of different sizes and contexts.

Delegation huddle question

Can a small congregation actually use this?

6-12 - Reinsert 2007 Pastoral Colloquy Bylaws from Policy Manual

Priority: High | **Castle risk:** Rules may be more accessible in the Handbook but still unclear to applicants and families.

Amendment idea

Ask the Colloquy Committee to provide a plain-language public guide covering eligibility, required documents, district interviews, objection procedures, possible required coursework or vicarage, timelines where possible, and pastoral-care expectations for applicants and families.

Why this helps

Colloquy needs a clear map, not a locked filing cabinet.

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Ensure faithful doctrine and pastoral readiness
Relational	Applicant, district, committee, seminary trust
Physical	Interviews, documentation, coursework, vicarage
Intellectual	Clear process and standards
Financial	Clarify costs and time commitments

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding a plain-language public guide to the colloquy process, expectations, timelines, and pastoral care.

Delegation huddle question

Would a potential applicant know the path before entering it?

6-13 - Those Who Preach the Gospel Should Make Their Living from the Gospel

Priority: Highest | **Castle risk:** Compensation exhortation without tools may leave congregations in crisis with no practical next step.

Amendment idea

Encourage districts to assist congregations in evaluating compensation, sustainability, multi-point options, circuit partnerships, bivocational realities, worker wellness, family impact, and mission opportunities before crisis; include tools for discussing compensation, expectations, stewardship, shared ministry, and pastoral care.

Why this helps

Congregations need help before the budget meeting becomes a theological cage match with pie charts.

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Stewardship teaching and Word and Sacrament ministry
Relational	Partner congregations, circuits, district support
Physical	Multi-point parish, circuit rider, shared facility use
Intellectual	Compensation tools and sustainability assessment
Financial	Living wage, shared funding, grants, realistic expectations

Microphone phrase

I move to amend by adding district assistance before crisis, including tools for compensation, sustainability, shared ministry, wellness, family impact, and mission opportunities.

Delegation huddle question

Does this help congregations act before crisis arrives?

6-14 - Respectfully Decline Overtures

Priority: Medium | **Castle risk:** Declining unclear overtures may bury real concerns about sabbath, enrollment transparency, lay service, and the pastoral office.

Amendment idea
While declining these overtures, encourage continued study and conversation regarding pastoral sabbath and renewal, seminary enrollment transparency, faithful lay service, and clear distinction between lay service and the Office of the Holy Ministry through appropriate boards, seminaries, districts, and congregations.

Why this helps
Declines overreach while preserving useful concerns for better process.

Capital	Example
Spiritual	Clarify office and lay vocation
Relational	Encourage lay service and pastoral renewal
Physical	Sabbaticals, service settings, reporting tools
Intellectual	Study and guidance on office and service
Financial	Sabbatical funding and support structures

Microphone phrase
I move to amend by encouraging continued study and conversation on pastoral renewal, enrollment transparency, faithful lay service, and distinction from the Office of the Holy Ministry.

Delegation huddle question
Does this decline the overtures while keeping worthy concerns alive?

CLOSING GOSPEL FRAME

The Church needs pastors because Christ gives His gifts through His Word and Sacraments. Pastoral formation is not a staffing pipeline first. It is the church's care for the flock of Christ.

Committee 6 should help the Synod form pastors who can preach Christ clearly, administer the Sacraments faithfully, shepherd sinners gently, teach doctrine soundly, and go where the harvest is.

Final frame
Christ is risen indeed, and His sheep need shepherds, not gatekeepers with clipboards or improvisers with fog machines.