

LCMS 2026 Convention

Floor Committee 1: National Witness

Amendment Field Guide for Delegates

*Kingdom over castle | Mission over machinery | Low control with high accountability |
Five capitals released for local Gospel witness*

Delegate posture

- Serve the local congregation, not the institutional castle.
- Ask what releases faithful witness, not what adds control.
- Preserve clear Lutheran confession and sacramental integrity.
- Prefer local-context freedom with written reporting.
- Speak firmly, fraternally, and briefly. The microphone is not a pulpit with voting buttons.

Five capitals test

Spiritual: Word, Sacrament, prayer, catechesis, confession, pastoral care.

Relational: trust, mentoring, partnerships, people of peace.

Physical: buildings, schools, homes, campuses, tools, local presence.

Intellectual: training, research, doctrine, apologetics, wisdom.

Financial: money, grants, stewardship, sustainability, shared resources.

Master amendment instinct

Add local-context freedom, clear accountability, practical resources, and reporting without turning Synod into a control tower wearing a clerical collar.

Best generic final resolve

Resolved, That implementation of this resolution be carried out in collaboration with districts, congregations, schools, and local ministry leaders, honoring local context and congregational responsibility; and be it further Resolved, That the responsible Synod office or entity provide a brief report before the 2029 convention describing resources created, partnerships formed, congregations served, five capitals stewarded, and lessons learned.

One-sentence test before amending

Does this release spiritual, relational, physical, intellectual, or financial capital for faithful local Gospel witness, while preserving clear Lutheran confession and avoiding unnecessary centralized control?

Closing frame

Committee 1 is about helping congregations proclaim Christ where people actually live: neighborhoods, families, schools, campuses, cities, online searches, ethnic communities, Deaf communities, and new mission fields. Christ is risen indeed.

How to Address the Chairman and Bring an Amendment

Moment	What to do / what to say
Before floor session	Write exact wording. Share it with your delegation and floor committee contacts. Ask: Is it germane? Is it narrow? Does it improve the resolution?
At the microphone	Wait to be recognized. Say: "Mr. Chairman." State your motion before giving reasons.
Amendment formula	"I move to amend Resolution ___ by adding / inserting / striking / striking and inserting the following words: ..."
After second	Give one reason in 20-40 seconds. Explain what the amendment preserves and improves.
If confused	Use "Parliamentary inquiry" for procedure. Use "Request for information" for facts.
If challenged	Affirm concern, narrow the claim, cite one anchor, propose better wording, return to the Gospel purpose.

Fast floor phrases

Purpose	Phrase
Speak for	I rise in favor of Resolution ___ because...
Speak against	I rise in opposition to Resolution ___ because...
Ask committee	I rise to request information from the floor committee.
Offer amendment	I move to amend Resolution ___ by adding the following final resolve...
Substitute	I move the adoption of the following substitute resolution.
Refer	I move to refer this matter to ___ for further study and report.
Point of order	Point of order.
Parliamentary inquiry	Parliamentary inquiry.
Request information	Request for information.
Close debate	I move the previous question.
Counted vote	I call for a division of the assembly.

Committee 1 Amendment Dashboard

#	Resolution	Why it matters
1	1-07 Church Planting	Biggest Gospel-outpost opportunity. Add low-control, high-accountability language.
2	1-12 Campus Ministry	\$200,000 annual position. Add field-serving accountability and annual reporting.
3	1-13 Digital Witness	Add privacy, data accuracy, measurable goals, and local connection.
4	1-09 Youth and Young Adults	Potentially significant unscoped cost. Require broad local input and small-church usability.
5	1-10 Apologetics	Keep Law/Gospel centered and neighbor-facing, not merely polemical.
6	1-06 Urban Ministry	\$30,000 annual contract labor. Add local leadership and reporting language.

Three amendment types that fit this framework

Local-context amendment: Adds flexibility for congregations, schools, districts, and local leaders.

Accountability amendment: Adds reporting, measurable outcomes, cost clarity, or lessons learned.

Gospel-use amendment: Makes sure resources serve Word, Sacrament, catechesis, pastoral care, and neighbor-facing witness.

Source note: This study aid summarizes Floor Committee 1 resolutions as printed in LCMS 2026 Today's Business, Issue 1, pages 57-68, and uses the 2026 Convention Workbook cross-references listed there. It is not official LCMS action.

Resolution 1-01: All Nations Ministry in North America	Resolution 1-02: 2029 as the 500th Year of Luther's Catechisms
<i>Source: TB 1, pp. 57-58 Cost note: No incremental cost for exploration; unscoped materials may have cost.</i>	<i>Source: TB 1, pp. 58-59 Cost note: Estimated \$750,000, expected largely through restricted gifts.</i>
Delegate read: Celebrate multilingual and multiethnic ministry. Keep it local, relational, and Gospel-forward rather than merely commemorative.	Delegate read: Strong catechesis opportunity. Make sure it reaches households, small congregations, mission starts, schools, and campus ministries.
Proposed amendment: <i>Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to identify immigrant, refugee, multilingual, and multiethnic neighbors in their own communities and use available Synod, district, and local resources to build relationships, provide pastoral care, and proclaim Christ crucified and risen in ways faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.</i>	Proposed amendment: <i>Resolved, That Catechism500 resources be created in formats usable by households, small congregations, mission starts, schools, campus ministries, and congregations without full-time staff, including free or low-cost options for local use.</i>
Why amend: Turns celebration into local witness. The question is not only "What ministries exist?" but "Who has God placed near our congregation?"	Why amend: The Catechism belongs at the kitchen table, school desk, youth room, hospital bed, and coffee shop, not only in a glossy anniversary campaign.
Concrete example: A congregation maps nearby language groups, hosts an ESL meal, connects with an ethnic ministry leader, and uses translated catechism resources for a neighborhood Bible study.	Concrete example: A small church uses a free six-week household devotion kit and a one-page Small Catechism invitation for new families and neighbors.
Microphone phrase: <i>Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-01 by adding a final resolve encouraging congregations to identify and engage multilingual and multiethnic neighbors in their own local communities.</i>	Microphone phrase: <i>Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-02 by adding language that Catechism500 resources be free or low-cost and usable by households, small congregations, mission starts, schools, and campus ministries.</i>
Five capitals released: Spiritual: multilingual Law/Gospel and catechism resources Relational: friendship with ethnic ministry leaders and neighbors Physical: community meals, tutoring, ESL, welcome events Intellectual: local cultural-learning tools Financial: translation or outreach-meal support	Five capitals released: Spiritual: Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession, Supper Relational: parent-child catechesis nights Physical: printed cards and table tents Intellectual: short videos and teaching guides Financial: free basic kit with optional expanded resources

Resolution 1-03: 150 Years of Black Ministry	Resolution 1-04: 130 Years of Deaf Ministry
<i>Source: TB 1, pp. 59-60 Cost note: No direct cost stated in resolution text.</i>	<i>Source: TB 1, p. 60 Cost note: No direct cost stated in resolution text.</i>
Delegate read: Good thanksgiving and repentance language. Connect the anniversary to renewed local Gospel witness.	Delegate read: Strong thanksgiving resolution. Add practical accessibility and training language.
Proposed amendment: <i>Resolved, That congregations be encouraged to use the 150th anniversary as an opportunity for prayer, learning, repentance where needed, thanksgiving, and renewed local Gospel witness across racial, cultural, and neighborhood boundaries.</i>	Proposed amendment: <i>Resolved, That congregations, schools, and districts be encouraged to identify practical ways to support Deaf Ministry, including accessible catechetical resources, interpreter training, captioning, visual communication, and connection with existing Deaf Ministry leaders.</i>
Why amend: Prevents the anniversary from becoming a plaque on the wall. It asks congregations to learn, repent, give thanks, and witness now.	Why amend: Thanksgiving should lead to access. Romans 10 asks how they are to hear; Deaf Ministry also asks how they are to see, receive, confess, and belong.
Concrete example: A circuit holds a Bible study on the history of Black Lutheran ministry, invites local leaders to speak, prays publicly, and identifies one neighborhood partnership.	Concrete example: A congregation captions sermons, trains ushers in accessibility basics, and connects with a Deaf Ministry leader to explore ASL catechism support.
Microphone phrase: <i>Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-03 by adding a final resolve connecting the anniversary to local prayer, learning, repentance, thanksgiving, and renewed Gospel witness.</i>	Microphone phrase: <i>Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-04 by adding practical support language for accessible catechetical resources, interpreter training, captioning, and connection with existing Deaf Ministry leaders.</i>
Five capitals released: Spiritual: prayer, repentance, thanksgiving Relational: shared meals and studies with Black Lutheran leaders Physical: anniversary displays and community events Intellectual: teach history and present ministry needs Financial: scholarship or local ministry support	Five capitals released: Spiritual: ASL catechism and worship support Relational: connection with Deaf Ministry leaders Physical: captioning and visual communication Intellectual: Deaf culture and accessibility training Financial: micro-grants for captioning or interpreter help

Resolution 1-05: Revitalization Work	Resolution 1-06: Urban Congregations and Schools
<i>Source: TB 1, pp. 60-61 Cost note: No direct cost stated in resolution text.</i>	<i>Source: TB 1, p. 61 Cost note: Estimated \$30,000 annually in corporate Synod contract labor; district costs additional.</i>
Delegate read: Good direction. Keep revitalization rooted in repentance, Word and Sacrament, catechesis, inactive-member care, and local evangelism.	Delegate read: Helpful mission-support resolution. Protect local leadership, neighborhood relationships, and school-congregation partnerships.
Proposed amendment: <i>Resolved, That revitalization resources emphasize repentance, prayer, Word and Sacrament life, catechesis, care for inactive members, local evangelism, community relationships, and adaptable practices appropriate to each congregation's context.</i>	Proposed amendment: <i>Resolved, That any urban ministry support prioritize local congregational leadership, neighborhood relationships, school-congregation partnerships, district collaboration, and practical assistance in administration, funding, facilities, and outreach; and be it further Resolved, That a brief report be provided before the 2029 convention summarizing congregations and schools served, partnerships formed, resources shared, five capitals stewarded, and lessons learned.</i>
Why amend: Revitalization is not cosmetic church pep. It begins with Christ's gifts and moves outward in neighbor love.	Why amend: Urban congregations are not problems to manage. They are Gospel outposts with local wisdom, history, wounds, assets, and neighbors.
Concrete example: A plateaued congregation starts a prayer-and-listening season, reconnects inactive members, studies its neighborhood, and builds one outreach rhythm around Word and hospitality.	Concrete example: An urban congregation receives shared bookkeeping help, LCEF facility counsel, neighborhood demographic data, and a peer cohort with other urban schools and churches.
Microphone phrase: <i>Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-05 by clarifying that revitalization resources should be locally adaptable and centered in repentance, Word and Sacrament, prayer, catechesis, inactive-member care, and local evangelism.</i>	Microphone phrase: <i>Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-06 by adding language prioritizing local leadership, neighborhood relationships, school-congregation partnerships, district collaboration, and a report before the 2029 convention.</i>
Five capitals released: Spiritual: preaching, Sacrament, prayer, catechesis Relational: inactive-member care and neighbor relationships Physical: reuse underused spaces for mission Intellectual: local demographic and ministry learning Financial: align budget with discipleship and outreach	Five capitals released: Spiritual: Word and Sacrament ministry in urban neighborhoods Relational: urban peer cohorts Physical: facility and school partnerships Intellectual: data, governance, and grant-writing help Financial: administrative and sustainability support

Resolution 1-07: Church Planting at the Parish Level	Resolution 1-08: Educate Young People
<p><i>Source: TB 1, pp. 61-62 Cost note: Notes 33 active plants, \$590,000 distributed, \$2,080,000 anticipated, 64 additional sites identified.</i></p>	<p><i>Source: TB 1, pp. 62-63 Cost note: No incremental cost; covered in current ONM budget and scope.</i></p>
<p>Delegate read: Major kingdom-over-castle resolution. It already names the local congregation as the front-line mission outpost.</p>	<p>Delegate read: Support parents as primary educators and encourage Lutheran schools and homeschools without locking everyone into one model.</p>
<p>Proposed amendment: <i>Resolved, That church planting support be offered through a low-control, high-accountability framework that requires clear Lutheran confession, pastoral supervision, sacramental integrity, financial transparency, local partnership, and regular reporting, while allowing districts and congregations flexibility in models appropriate to their contexts.</i></p>	<p>Proposed amendment: <i>Resolved, That support for educating young people include congregational schools, early childhood centers, homeschool families, hybrid models, classical and traditional models, urban and rural schools, and new starts, according to local context and faithful Lutheran doctrine.</i></p>
<p>Why amend: We need more Gospel outposts, not theological chaos dressed as innovation and not control so tight a church plant needs three committees to buy folding chairs.</p>	<p>Why amend: The faithful question is not "Which model do we control?" but "How do we help parents and congregations form children in Christ?"</p>
<p>Concrete example: A mother congregation launches a preaching station in an underserved area, with pastoral supervision, a transparent grant plan, sacramental clarity, local partnerships, and quarterly milestones.</p>	<p>Concrete example: A congregation with no school hosts a homeschool catechesis co-op and partners with a nearby Lutheran school for chapel resources and teacher support.</p>
<p>Microphone phrase: <i>Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-07 by adding a final resolve establishing a low-control, high-accountability framework for church planting, including Lutheran confession, pastoral supervision, sacramental integrity, financial transparency, local partnership, and regular reporting.</i></p>	<p>Microphone phrase: <i>Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-08 by clarifying that support for educating young people includes schools, homeschools, hybrid models, urban and rural contexts, and new starts according to local context and faithful Lutheran doctrine.</i></p>
<p>Five capitals released: Spiritual: Word, Sacrament, catechesis, pastoral oversight Relational: mother churches, circuits, district coaches Physical: homes, schools, storefronts, shared space Intellectual: planter training and contextual mission coaching Financial: grants tied to milestones and transparency</p>	<p>Five capitals released: Spiritual: chapel, catechesis, family devotions Relational: parent mentoring and school-congregation partnership Physical: classrooms, co-op spaces, church buildings Intellectual: curriculum review and teacher formation Financial: scholarships, shared staffing, start-up support</p>

Resolution 1-09: Youth and Young Adults	Resolution 1-10: Apologetics and Cultural Idolatry
<i>Source: TB 1, pp. 63-64 Cost note: Potentially significant costs for study, publications, resources; not yet scoped.</i>	<i>Source: TB 1, pp. 64-65 Cost note: Incremental costs for resources and study may be difficult to estimate.</i>
Delegate read: Good aim. Require broad local input and resources useful for small congregations without full-time youth staff.	Delegate read: Support the concern. Narrow the tone so apologetics serves evangelism, Law and Gospel, and neighbor-facing witness.
Proposed amendment: <i>Resolved, That any study or resources developed under this resolution include input from parents, youth, young adults, pastors, teachers, DCEs, campus ministry leaders, small congregations, rural congregations, urban congregations, and recent confirmands; and be it further Resolved, That resources be practical, low-cost, and usable by congregations without full-time youth staff.</i>	Proposed amendment: <i>Resolved, That all apologetics resources developed under this resolution be explicitly centered in Law and Gospel, evangelistic rather than merely polemical, reviewed for doctrinal faithfulness, and designed to help congregations speak the truth in love to actual neighbors.</i>
Why amend: A youth ministry study must listen to the people actually forming youth, including smaller churches where the youth room is also the fellowship hall and storage closet.	Why amend: Good apologetics names idols clearly, then gives Christ clearly. It should not just throw theological canned goods at strangers on the internet.
Concrete example: A small congregation receives a four-session confirmation follow-up tool, a mentor guide, a family worship habit guide, and a low-cost youth service project template.	Concrete example: A congregation hosts a Q&A night on identity, AI, purpose, and faith, using Lutheran resources that expose false gods and proclaim Christ for sinners.
Microphone phrase: <i>Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-09 by adding language requiring broad local input and practical, low-cost resources usable by congregations without full-time youth staff.</i>	Microphone phrase: <i>Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-10 by adding that apologetics resources be Law-and-Gospel centered, evangelistic rather than merely polemical, doctrinally reviewed, and usable for local neighbor-facing witness.</i>
Five capitals released: Spiritual: confirmation follow-up, worship, prayer Relational: intergenerational mentoring Physical: service projects and gathering spaces Intellectual: Gen Z and Alpha formation research Financial: low-cost tools for small churches	Five capitals released: Spiritual: First Commandment diagnosis and Gospel Relational: conversation guides for neighbors Physical: public forums and campus events Intellectual: clear Lutheran responses to cultural idols Financial: shared resource library

Resolution 1-11: God's Design for the Family	Resolution 1-12: Campus Ministry
<i>Source: TB 1, pp. 65-66 Cost note: No direct cost stated in resolution text.</i>	<i>Source: TB 1, pp. 66-67 Cost note: Estimated \$200,000 annually for full-time position plus travel and incidentals.</i>
Delegate read: Confess clearly, but add a shepherding voice for families under pressure, including complicated households and wounded consciences.	Delegate read: High-value mission field. Add accountability so a national role equips congregations, chapters, and districts.
Proposed amendment: <i>Resolved, That congregations and schools be encouraged to provide pastoral care, catechesis, and practical support for families facing confusion, fear, legal pressure, marital strain, broken homes, or conflict over child formation, speaking truth clearly while caring tenderly for wounded consciences.</i>	Proposed amendment: <i>Resolved, That the full-time campus ministry position, if funded, prioritize equipping local congregations and districts, strengthening LCMS U chapters, connecting students to Word and Sacrament ministry, engaging international students, and identifying future church workers; and be it further Resolved, That an annual summary of congregations served, campuses engaged, chapters strengthened, students connected, and resources developed be shared with the Synod.</i>
Why amend: The doctrine needs clarity. Families also need absolution, care, and practical help. Law and Gospel, not Law and louder Law.	Why amend: A funded national role should serve the field, not become a swivel chair with a mission statement taped to the armrest.
Concrete example: A school and congregation host parent catechesis, offer pastoral care referrals, and help families respond faithfully to school or legal pressure.	Concrete example: A campus-adjacent congregation receives student outreach coaching, connects with an LCMS U chapter, hosts meals for international students, and tracks student connections to worship.
Microphone phrase: <i>Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-11 by adding pastoral care language for families under pressure, so the resolution speaks truth clearly while caring for wounded consciences.</i>	Microphone phrase: <i>Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-12 by adding accountability language for the proposed campus ministry position, including annual reporting on congregations served, campuses engaged, chapters strengthened, students connected, and resources developed.</i>
Five capitals released: Spiritual: marriage, family, vocation, repentance, forgiveness Relational: parent mentoring and marriage support Physical: family nights and counseling referral lists Intellectual: guides on parental vocation and Christian formation Financial: counseling support or family retreat subsidies	Five capitals released: Spiritual: students connected to Word and Sacrament Relational: students, alumni, pastors, chapters, internationals Physical: campus-adjacent churches and gathering spaces Intellectual: apologetics, vocation, Lutheran identity Financial: grants, meals, retreats, Bible studies

Resolution 1-13: Digital Witness and Congregational Connections	Resolution 1-14: Lutheran Hour Ministries Collaboration
<i>Source: TB 1, p. 67 Cost note: No incremental cost; work already underway to strengthen lcms.org.</i>	<i>Source: TB 1, pp. 67-68 Cost note: No direct cost stated in resolution text.</i>
Delegate read: Helpful and practical. Add privacy, data accuracy, measurable goals, and small-congregation usability.	Delegate read: Good thanksgiving and collaboration resolution. Add local follow-up so media reach lands in congregational life.
Proposed amendment: <i>Resolved, That any digital witness strategy include clear privacy standards, a plan for maintaining accurate congregational data, measurable goals for connecting seekers to local congregations, and tools usable by small congregations with limited staff or technical capacity.</i>	Proposed amendment: <i>Resolved, That such collaboration especially seek to strengthen local congregational outreach, connect media listeners to nearby LCMS congregations, and share practical follow-up tools that congregations may use in their own communities.</i>
Why amend: Digital witness should be a road sign to the local altar, font, pulpit, pastor, and congregation, not a shiny online castle.	Why amend: Media reach is wonderful. Local follow-up is essential. Broadcast proclamation should land near a pastor, Bible, font, altar, and congregation.
Concrete example: A seeker uses an improved church finder with accurate worship times, contacts a local pastor, receives follow-up, and is invited to worship and Bible study.	Concrete example: A congregation receives follow-up cards and digital tools to connect local listeners from a media campaign to worship, Bible study, and pastoral conversation.
Microphone phrase: <i>Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-13 by adding privacy, data-maintenance, measurable-goal, and small-congregation usability language.</i>	Microphone phrase: <i>Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-14 by adding that collaboration should strengthen local congregational outreach, connect media listeners to nearby LCMS congregations, and provide practical follow-up tools.</i>
Five capitals released: Spiritual: online content points to Word and Sacrament Relational: seekers connected to real congregations Physical: accurate addresses and worship times Intellectual: digital hospitality training Financial: shared tools for small congregations	Five capitals released: Spiritual: media proclamation of Christ Relational: listeners connected to pastors and members Physical: local congregations as landing pads Intellectual: evangelism and follow-up training Financial: shared stewardship of media and outreach

Resolution 1-15: Respectfully Decline Overture 1-14 on Armed Security
<i>Source: TB 1, p. 68 Cost note: No direct cost stated in resolution text.</i>
Delegate read: Declining a national mandate is sound because local schools and congregations carry this responsibility. Add nonbinding encouragement for wise local safety planning.
Proposed amendment: <i>Resolved, That while declining Overture 1-14, the Synod encourage congregations and schools, according to their local vocations and civil responsibilities, to develop appropriate safety policies in consultation with local law enforcement, insurers, school leaders, parents, and governing boards.</i>
Why amend: Low control keeps authority local. High accountability still says child safety should be handled with wisdom, not vibes and leftover coffee.
Concrete example: A Lutheran school forms a safety team with parents, law enforcement, insurance counsel, board leaders, and staff, then reviews entrances, communication, and emergency plans.
Microphone phrase: <i>Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-15 by adding a final resolve encouraging local congregations and schools to develop appropriate safety policies in consultation with local authorities and responsible governing bodies.</i>
<p>Five capitals released:</p> <p>Spiritual: prayer for protection and wisdom</p> <p>Relational: parents, police, boards, insurers</p> <p>Physical: entrances, procedures, emergency plans</p> <p>Intellectual: safety training and policy development</p> <p>Financial: local budgeting for safety improvements</p>

Delegate Closing Frame

- Affirm the good concern before narrowing what needs improvement.
- Use one clear amendment, not six ideas wearing one trench coat.
- Add accountability where money, staffing, or new initiatives are involved.
- Add local-context language where a resolution might unintentionally over-centralize.
- Ask whether the resolution helps congregations engage real people with the risen Christ.

Closing Gospel frame: The risen Christ does not send His Church to polish the castle gate. He sends His baptized people into the harvest with His Word, His gifts, His mercy, and His promise. Christ is risen indeed.

Sources used: LCMS 2026 Today's Business, Issue 1, pages 57-68; 2026 Convention Workbook cross-references listed in Today's Business; prior delegate-amendment material developed in this conversation.