

Chairman & Delegation Amendment Guide

Floor Committee 1: National Witness

Portrait | Ink-friendly | Microphone-ready | Resolution-by-resolution

Purpose

Help a delegate prepare, share, and bring a faithful amendment throughout convention business without over-centralizing what should remain local.

Working posture

- Kingdom over castle: serve the Gospel and local congregations, not institutional self-protection.
- Mission over machinery: add support, not needless controls.
- Low control with high accountability: preserve freedom of local contexts while requiring clarity, transparency, and follow-through.
- Speak with Lutheran conviction and brotherly charity. Firm, useful, and no microphone sermon series.

The five capitals test

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

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

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

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

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

Master question

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

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.

Source note: This delegate aid summarizes and proposes amendment language for Floor Committee 1 resolutions as printed in LCMS 2026 Today's Business, Issue 1, pages 57-68, with cross-reference to the 2026 Convention Workbook where listed. It is a study and floor-preparation aid, not official LCMS action or parliamentary advice from the chair.

How to Address the Chairman and Bring an Amendment

Step	What to do / what to say
1. Draft before speaking	Write exact wording. Check: Is it germane? Is it narrow? Does it improve the resolution? Does it preserve the good concern?
2. Share with your delegation	Use a 30-second huddle: "Here is the concern, here is the amendment, here is why it helps, and here is what it does not do." Ask who may second or speak in support.
3. Send to committee when possible	If there is time before action, share written wording with floor committee members or through the published convention process. Written language beats hallway fog.
4. Go to the microphone	Wait to be recognized. Say "Mr. Chairman." State the motion first, then briefly explain.
5. Use exact amendment formula	"I move to amend Resolution ___ by adding / inserting / striking / striking and inserting the following words: ..."
6. After a second	Give one reason. Aim for 20-40 seconds. The goal is clarity, not a homiletical hostage situation.
7. If unsure	Say "Parliamentary inquiry" for procedure. Say "Request for information" for facts from the committee.
8. If challenged	Affirm the concern. Narrow the claim. Cite one anchor. Propose better wording. Return to the Gospel purpose.

Fast phrases at the microphone

Purpose	Phrase
Speak in favor	I rise in favor of Resolution ___ because...
Speak against	I rise in opposition to Resolution ___ because...
Ask committee question	I rise to request information from the floor committee.
Offer amendment	I move to amend Resolution ___ by adding the following final resolve...
Strike and insert	I move to amend by striking the words ___ and inserting the words ___.
Refer	I move to refer this matter to ___ for further study and report.
Substitute	I move the adoption of the following substitute resolution.
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.

Delegation Huddle and Amendment Dashboard

30-second delegation huddle script

Friends, I am considering an amendment to Resolution _____. The good concern is _____. The weakness is _____. My amendment would _____. It would not _____. I believe this helps local congregations and keeps accountability clear. Would anyone second or speak briefly in support?

Three amendment types that fit the mindset

Local-context amendment: keeps implementation adaptable for congregations, schools, districts, and local leaders.

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

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

Top priorities

Res.	Focus	Why amend
1-07	Church Planting	Add low-control, high-accountability framework.
1-12	Campus Ministry	Add accountability for the \$200,000 annual staff role.
1-13	Digital Witness	Add privacy, data accuracy, measurable local connection.
1-09	Youth and Young Adults	Require broad local input and small-church usability.
1-10	Apologetics	Keep Law/Gospel centered and neighbor-facing.
1-06	Urban Ministry	Add local leadership and reporting language.

Mini amendment templates

Need	Template wording
Add reporting	...by adding a new final resolve: "Resolved, That the responsible office provide a brief report before the 2029 convention describing resources created, congregations served, five capitals stewarded, and lessons learned."
Protect local context	...by adding after the final resolve: "in collaboration with districts, congregations, schools, and local ministry leaders, honoring local context and congregational responsibility."
Make it usable	...by adding: "including free or low-cost resources usable by small congregations and congregations without full-time staff."

Resolution-by-Resolution Amendment Cards

Use these as amendment starters. Narrow them further if the floor committee already improved the wording in a later Today's Business issue.

Resolution 1-01: All Nations Ministry in North America

Source: TB 1, pp. 57-58 | Cost note: No incremental cost for exploration; unscoped materials may have cost.

Delegate read: Celebrate multilingual and multiethnic ministry. Keep it local, relational, and Gospel-forward rather than merely commemorative.

Proposed amendment: *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.*

Why amend: Turns celebration into local witness. The question is not only "What ministries exist?" but "Who has God placed near our congregation?"

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.

Microphone phrase: *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.*

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

Resolution 1-02: 2029 as the 500th Year of Luther's Catechisms

Source: TB 1, pp. 58-59 | Cost note: Estimated \$750,000, expected largely through restricted gifts.

Delegate read: Strong catechesis opportunity. Make sure it reaches households, small congregations, mission starts, schools, and campus ministries.

Proposed amendment: *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.*

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 small church uses a free six-week household devotion kit and a one-page Small Catechism invitation for new families and neighbors.

Microphone phrase: *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.*

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

Source: TB 1, pp. 59-60 | Cost note: No direct cost stated in resolution text.

Delegate read: Good thanksgiving and repentance language. Connect the anniversary to renewed local Gospel witness.

Proposed amendment: *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.*

Why amend: Prevents the anniversary from becoming a plaque on the wall. It asks congregations to learn, repent, give thanks, and witness now.

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.

Microphone phrase: *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.*

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

Resolution 1-04: 130 Years of Deaf Ministry

Source: TB 1, p. 60 | Cost note: No direct cost stated in resolution text.

Delegate read: Strong thanksgiving resolution. Add practical accessibility and training language.

Proposed amendment: 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.

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 congregation captions sermons, trains ushers in accessibility basics, and connects with a Deaf Ministry leader to explore ASL catechism support.

Microphone phrase: 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.

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

Source: TB 1, pp. 60-61 | Cost note: No direct cost stated in resolution text.

Delegate read: Good direction. Keep revitalization rooted in repentance, Word and Sacrament, catechesis, inactive-member care, and local evangelism.

Proposed amendment: 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.

Why amend: Revitalization is not cosmetic church pep. It begins with Christ's gifts and moves outward in neighbor love.

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.

Microphone phrase: 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.

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

Resolution 1-06: Urban Congregations and Schools

Source: TB 1, p. 61 | Cost note: Estimated \$30,000 annually in corporate Synod contract labor; district costs additional.

Delegate read: Helpful mission-support resolution. Protect local leadership, neighborhood relationships, and school-congregation partnerships.

Proposed amendment: 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.

Why amend: Urban congregations are not problems to manage. They are Gospel outposts with local wisdom, history, wounds, assets, and neighbors.

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: 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.

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

Source: TB 1, pp. 61-62 | Cost note: Notes 33 active plants, \$590,000 distributed, \$2,080,000 anticipated, 64 additional sites identified.

Delegate read: Major kingdom-over-castle resolution. It already names the local congregation as the front-line mission outpost.

Proposed amendment: 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.

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.

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.

Microphone phrase: 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.

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

Resolution 1-08: Educate Young People

Source: TB 1, pp. 62-63 | Cost note: No incremental cost; covered in current ONM budget and scope.

Delegate read: Support parents as primary educators and encourage Lutheran schools and homeschools without locking everyone into one model.

Proposed amendment: 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.

Why amend: The faithful question is not "Which model do we control?" but "How do we help parents and congregations form children in Christ?"

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.

Microphone phrase: 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.

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

Resolution 1-09: Youth and Young Adults

Source: TB 1, pp. 63-64 | Cost note: Potentially significant costs for study, publications, resources; not yet scoped.

Delegate read: Good aim. Require broad local input and resources useful for small congregations without full-time youth staff.

Proposed amendment: 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.

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.

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.

Microphone phrase: 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.

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

Resolution 1-10: Apologetics and Cultural Idolatry

Source: TB 1, pp. 64-65 | Cost note: Incremental costs for resources and study may be difficult to estimate.

Delegate read: Support the concern. Narrow the tone so apologetics serves evangelism, Law and Gospel, and neighbor-facing witness.

Proposed amendment: 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.

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 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: 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.

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

Source: TB 1, pp. 65-66 | Cost note: No direct cost stated in resolution text.

Delegate read: Confess clearly, but add a shepherding voice for families under pressure, including complicated households and wounded consciences.

Proposed amendment: 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.

Why amend: The doctrine needs clarity. Families also need absolution, care, and practical help. Law and Gospel, not Law and louder Law.

Concrete example: A school and congregation host parent catechesis, offer pastoral care referrals, and help families respond faithfully to school or legal pressure.

Microphone phrase: 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.

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

Resolution 1-12: Campus Ministry

Source: TB 1, pp. 66-67 | Cost note: Estimated \$200,000 annually for full-time position plus travel and incidentals.

Delegate read: High-value mission field. Add accountability so a national role equips congregations, chapters, and districts.

Proposed amendment: 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.

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 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: 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.

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

Source: TB 1, p. 67 | Cost note: No incremental cost; work already underway to strengthen lcms.org.

Delegate read: Helpful and practical. Add privacy, data accuracy, measurable goals, and small-congregation usability.

Proposed amendment: 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.

Why amend: Digital witness should be a road sign to the local altar, font, pulpit, pastor, and congregation, not a shiny online castle.

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.

Microphone phrase: Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 1-13 by adding privacy, data-maintenance, measurable-goal, and small-congregation usability language.

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

Resolution 1-14: Lutheran Hour Ministries Collaboration

Source: TB 1, pp. 67-68 | Cost note: No direct cost stated in resolution text.

Delegate read: Good thanksgiving and collaboration resolution. Add local follow-up so media reach lands in congregational life.

Proposed amendment: 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.

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 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: 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.

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

Source: TB 1, p. 68 | Cost note: No direct cost stated in resolution text.

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: 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.

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: 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.

Five capitals released:

Spiritual: prayer for protection and wisdom

Relational: parents, police, boards, insurers

Physical: entrances, procedures, emergency plans

Intellectual: safety training and policy development

Financial: local budgeting for safety improvements

Closing Floor Frame

Move	How to do it
Affirm the concern	Do not begin by making enemies. "The concern is faithful and worth preserving."
Narrow the claim	Do not fix the whole Synod at once. Amend the sentence in front of you.
Cite one anchor	Use one Scripture, Confession, bylaw, report, or clear practical reason.
Propose better wording	Offer exact language. Delegates vote on words, not vibes.
Return to Christ	The aim is faithful witness to Jesus crucified and risen, not winning a parliamentary wrestling match.

Final 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.

Prepared as a delegate study aid from the uploaded LCMS 2026 Today's Business, Issue 1 and prior amendment material in this conversation. Verify final wording against the latest daily Today's Business before offering any floor amendment.