

Chairman & Delegation Amendment Guide

Floor Committee 2: International Witness

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

Purpose

Help a delegate prepare, share, and bring faithful amendments for International Witness business while keeping the Synod focused on serving Gospel mission, not building unnecessary centralized control.

Working posture

- Kingdom over castle: serve Christ's mission and the congregations, missionaries, partner churches, and workers connected to it.
- Mission over machinery: add support, clarity, and care, not needless controls.
- Low control with high accountability: preserve local and international context while requiring doctrine, supervision, transparency, and follow-through.
- Speak with Lutheran conviction and brotherly charity. Firm, fraternal, useful, and brief.

Committee 2 at a glance

Today's Business, Issue 1 presents five proposed resolutions for Committee 2, pages 69-75. Verify final wording against later daily issues before offering floor amendments.

The five capitals test

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

Relational: trust, partnership, missionary care, local leaders, partner churches.

Physical: schools, chaplaincy structures, mission sites, travel, field presence.

Intellectual: training, language learning, supervision clarity, cultural wisdom, theological formation.

Financial: missionary support, district partnerships, sustainable funding, transparent stewardship.

Master question

Does this amendment strengthen international Gospel witness while keeping doctrine clear, missionaries cared for, partner relationships healthy, and control appropriately limited?

Best generic final resolve

Resolved, That implementation of this resolution be carried out in a manner that strengthens local and international Gospel witness, honors appropriate ecclesiastical supervision, supports missionaries and partner churches, respects local context, and provides clear reporting before the 2029 convention on partnerships strengthened, missionaries supported, congregations served, five capitals stewarded, and lessons learned.

Source note: This delegate aid summarizes and proposes amendment language for Floor Committee 2 resolutions as printed in LCMS 2026 Today's Business, Issue 1, pages 69-75. 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 preserve the good concern while improving the resolution?
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. Share written wording	When possible, provide the amendment to the floor committee or secretary process in writing. Written words beat hallway fog every time.
4. Go to the microphone	Wait to be recognized. Begin with "Mr. Chairman." State the motion first, then give a brief reason after a second.
5. Use exact formula	"I move to amend Resolution ___ by adding / inserting / striking / striking and inserting the following words: ..."
6. Explain briefly	Give one reason. Aim for 20-40 seconds. Do not preach the whole sermon, even if your inner Luther is awake and caffeinated.
7. Ask the right question	Use "Parliamentary inquiry" for procedure. Use "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 Committee 2 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 international Gospel witness while keeping accountability clear and control appropriately limited. Would anyone second or speak briefly in support?

Three amendment types that fit Committee 2

Capacity amendment: keeps mission participation open to congregations and districts of different sizes.

Care amendment: adds clarity around missionary and family pastoral care, confidentiality, crisis response, and support.

Governance amendment: clarifies approval, supervision, reporting, and conflict resolution without overreaching into independent international congregations.

Priority amendments

Res.	Focus	Why amend
2-04	Bylaw framework	Needs implementation guidelines and reporting.
2-03	Missionary care	Needs care expectations, confidentiality, and stewardship clarity.
2-02	Global mission	Needs capacity-sensitive language and reporting.
2-05	LAC mission	Turn thanksgiving into future mission action.
2-01	Armed Forces	Add local congregational care language.

Mini amendment templates

Need	Template wording
Add capacity language	...by adding: "according to their capacity and context, including prayer, relationship, support, and faithful local participation."
Add reporting	...by adding a final resolve requiring a brief report before the 2029 convention on partnerships strengthened, workers supported, resources created, five capitals stewarded, and lessons learned.
Clarify care	...by adding expectations for pastoral care, confidentiality, family support, crisis response, field visitation, and reporting that protects private pastoral information.
Clarify governance	...by requiring written implementation guidelines for approval, supervision, doctrinal accountability, conflict resolution, communication expectations, withdrawal of approval, and reporting.

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 2-01: To Give Thanks for LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces

Source: Today's Business, Issue 1, page 69 | Overture 2-06 | Cost note: No specific financial estimate printed with this resolution.

Delegate read: Strong thanksgiving resolution for military chaplains, Ministry to the Armed Forces, and Operation Barnabas. The local opportunity is to move from appreciation to congregational care for military-connected people.

Watch-for concern: Could remain a polite thank-you unless congregations are clearly encouraged to identify and care for military members, veterans, chaplains, and families in their own communities.

Proposed amendment: Resolved, That the Synod encourage its congregations to identify and care for current and former military members, veterans, chaplains, National Guard and Reserve members, and their families through prayer, pastoral care, local visitation, veteran support, and connection to available Synod and district resources.

Why amend: This keeps authority local and care practical. Synod does not need to control every congregation's military ministry, but it can equip and encourage faithful local care.

Concrete example: A congregation creates a simple military-connected member list, prays monthly for deployed families, trains elders in veteran care, and connects members to Operation Barnabas resources.

Microphone phrase: Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 2-01 by adding local congregational care language for military members, veterans, chaplains, and their families.

Delegation huddle question: Does this help congregations actually care for military families, or only thank the ministry from a distance?

Five capitals released:

Spiritual: Prayer, pastoral care, confession, absolution, Word and Sacrament for military families.

Relational: Veteran mentors, deployment support teams, chaplain connections.

Physical: Church facilities for veteran care groups, family support gatherings, care-package work.

Intellectual: Training on military culture, deployment stress, moral injury, grief, and reintegration.

Financial: Local emergency aid, chaplaincy support, care packages, and veteran ministry resources.

Resolution 2-02: To Direct Districts and Encourage Congregational Participation in Global Mission through Prayer, Partnership, and Support

Source: Today's Business, Issue 1, pages 69-70 | Overtures 2-01-02 | Cost note: No specific financial estimate printed with this resolution.

Delegate read: Mission-positive resolution directing each district to assess feasibility of adopting a FORO partnership and encouraging congregations to pray, support missionaries, and participate in global mission.

Watch-for concern: The word "direct" can feel heavier than needed if districts and congregations are not given capacity-sensitive language. Small congregations should not feel like international mission begins with a bill they cannot pay.

Proposed amendment: *Resolved, That districts and congregations be encouraged to participate in global mission partnerships in ways appropriate to their capacity and context, including prayer, missionary relationships, theological education support, short-term encouragement visits where appropriate, communication with missionaries, and financial support; and be it further Resolved, That districts choosing to adopt or expand such partnerships provide periodic updates describing the spiritual, relational, physical, intellectual, and financial support being stewarded.*

Why amend: This preserves the mission push while keeping participation open to congregations and districts of different sizes. It adds accountability without creating a uniform quota.

Concrete example: A small congregation adopts one missionary for prayer and monthly updates. A circuit hosts a mission meal. A district evaluates a FORO partnership and reports back before its next convention.

Microphone phrase: *Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 2-02 by clarifying capacity-sensitive participation and adding periodic reporting on the five capitals being stewarded.*

Delegation huddle question: Does this keep global mission open to every congregation without turning participation into a quota?

Five capitals released:

Spiritual: Mission prayers in worship, missionary devotions, theological education support.

Relational: Congregation-to-missionary relationships, district-to-partner church friendships.

Physical: Mission visits, field resources, travel support, supplies where appropriate.

Intellectual: Language learning, theological education, cultural wisdom, mission briefings.

Financial: Missionary support, scholarships, district offerings, transparent mission funding.

Resolution 2-03: To Give Thanks to God for Missionary Care Provided by the Office of International Mission

Source: *Today's Business*, Issue 1, pages 70-71 | Reports R1.2.2, R7 | Overture 2-03 | Cost note: Annual cost estimate: \$800,000 for chaplains in each region and associated costs, with expectation of missionary-style funding.

Delegate read: Strong care resolution. It gives thanks for comprehensive missionary care and directs the establishment of full-time chaplaincy in each region by the 2029 convention.

Watch-for concern: A major financial and staffing commitment needs clear expectations, confidentiality protection, and an accountability loop. Pastoral care must not become bureaucracy, and bureaucracy must not hide behind warm words.

Proposed amendment: *Resolved, That the establishment of full-time regional missionary chaplaincy include clear expectations for pastoral care, confidentiality, family support, crisis response, field visitation, coordination with missionary supervisors, and annual reporting to the Board for International Mission on care provided, needs observed, and resources required, while protecting private pastoral information.*

Why amend: This supports missionaries as real people, not Gospel machines with passports. It also honors stewardship by clarifying what the \$800,000 commitment is intended to provide.

Concrete example: Each region has a chaplain who conducts field visits, provides confidential pastoral care, supports spouses and children, coordinates crisis response, and reports trends without revealing private pastoral details.

Microphone phrase: *Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 2-03 by adding clear expectations for regional missionary chaplaincy, confidentiality, family support, crisis response, field visitation, and annual reporting.*

Delegation huddle question: Does this support missionary care while protecting confidentiality and clarifying the funding commitment?

Five capitals released:

Spiritual: Confession, absolution, prayer, retreats, pastoral counsel, worship support.

Relational: Chaplain care for missionaries, spouses, children, regional teams, and supervisors.

Physical: Field visits, retreat spaces, safe pastoral care channels, crisis response structures.

Intellectual: Cross-cultural care training, trauma awareness, family systems wisdom.

Financial: Sustainable funding for chaplains, travel, retreats, emergency care, reporting.

Resolution 2-04: To Amend Bylaws for Ecclesiastical Supervision and Pastoral Care for Independent International Congregations

Source: *Today's Business*, Issue 1, pages 71-74 | Overture 2-03 | Cost note: No separate financial estimate printed with this resolution, but implementation may require coordination, travel, supervision, and staff time.

Delegate read: The most consequential Committee 2 item. It amends bylaws to create a framework for LCMS rostered workers serving independent international congregations, including approval, supervision, active roster status, OIM liaison, and district-president supervision.

Watch-for concern: This can either be faithful accountability or accidental overreach. The Synod should not pretend to govern independent international congregations, but LCMS ministers serving them must remain accountable in doctrine, practice, pastoral conduct, and supervision.

Proposed amendment: *Resolved, That before implementation of these bylaw amendments, the Board for International Mission, in consultation with the Council of Presidents and Office of International Mission, develop written implementation guidelines that clarify approval, supervision, pastoral care, doctrinal accountability, conflict resolution, communication expectations, and withdrawal of approval; and be it further Resolved, That these guidelines respect the independence of international congregations while ensuring that LCMS ministers serving them remain accountable to the confession, doctrine, and practice of the Synod; and be it further Resolved, That a report on the implementation and use of this framework be provided before the 2029 convention.*

Why amend: This is the cleanest low-control, high-accountability amendment. It asks for written guidelines before the new framework starts steering the ship.

Concrete example: A pastor serving an independent international congregation remains under district-president supervision. OIM helps with liaison. The congregation is not treated as an LCMS member congregation, but the LCMS worker remains accountable.

Microphone phrase: *Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 2-04 by requiring written implementation guidelines for approval, supervision, pastoral care, doctrinal accountability, conflict resolution, communication, withdrawal of approval, and a report before 2029.*

Delegation huddle question: Do these bylaw amendments protect doctrine, pastors, congregations, and international relationships without overreaching into independent congregations?

Five capitals released:

Spiritual: Clear confession, Word and Sacrament integrity, pastoral supervision, doctrinal accountability.

Relational: Trust among district presidents, OIM, BIM, partner leaders, and independent congregations.

Physical: Field visits, foreign ministry settings, communication channels, mission sites.

Intellectual: Written guidelines, cross-cultural polity training, conflict-resolution clarity.

Financial: Transparent costs for supervision, travel, administration, and pastoral care.

Resolution 2-05: To Give Thanks to God for 125 Years of Gospel Ministry, Partner Churches, and Mission in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

Source: *Today's Business*, Issue 1, pages 74-75 | Report R1.2.2 | Cost note: No specific financial estimate printed with this resolution.

Delegate read: Thanksgiving resolution for 125 years of Gospel ministry in Latin America and the Caribbean, partner churches, Spanish and Portuguese resources, theological education, church planting, and FORO partnerships.

Watch-for concern: Anniversary resolutions can become applause without action. The amendment should turn thanksgiving into future mission partnership and local participation.

Proposed amendment: *Resolved, That congregations, schools, districts, and mission partners be encouraged to use this anniversary to strengthen prayer, missionary support, theological education, Spanish- and Portuguese-language resources, church planting, and relationships with partner churches in the Latin America and Caribbean region.*

Why amend: This keeps the focus on future Gospel witness. Thanksgiving is best when it becomes prayer, partnership, and sending.

Concrete example: A congregation studies the LAC mission field, prays for partner churches, supports Spanish theological resources, and connects with a missionary or FORO partnership.

Microphone phrase: *Mr. Chairman, I move to amend Resolution 2-05 by adding a final resolve encouraging congregations, schools, districts, and mission partners to use the anniversary for prayer, missionary support, theological education, language resources, church planting, and partner church relationships.*

Delegation huddle question: Does this turn thanksgiving into future mission, or does it simply clap politely and sit down?

Five capitals released:

Spiritual: Prayer for missionaries, seminaries, pastors, deaconesses, and partner churches.

Relational: Partner church relationships, missionary connections, congregation-to-field friendships.

Physical: Seminaries, schools, mission sites, congregational gathering places, travel support.

Intellectual: Spanish and Portuguese theological resources, pastoral formation, catechetical materials.

Financial: Missionary support, scholarships, translation, church planting, mission grants.

Closing Floor Frame

Move	How to do it
Affirm the concern	Start charitably. "The concern is faithful and worth preserving."
Narrow the claim	Amend the sentence in front of you. Do not try to solve every mission question at once.
Cite one anchor	Use one Scripture, Confession, bylaw, report, cost note, or 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 cage match with nicer shoes.

Final Gospel frame: International mission is not a trophy case. It is the risen Christ sending His Church across borders, languages, cultures, military contexts, partner churches, independent congregations, and fields we cannot manage by spreadsheet. Christ is risen indeed, and the nations are not waiting for us to finish polishing the castle gate.

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.