

69TH REGULAR CONVENTION

LCMS 2026 CONVENTION RECAP

Sunday, July 19 through Thursday, July 23, 2026

Major votes, election results, adopted actions, amendments, procedural developments, and implications for congregations

VOTES AND PERCENTAGES

WHO WAS ELECTED

WHAT IT MEANS

Prepared by Pastor Rob Bailey

South Lake Church | League City, Texas | 2026 Convention Guide

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

1 Corinthians 15:20

Source boundary

Official LCMS election results, approved minutes, published convention documents, and the final Proceedings control exact wording and permanent historical citation. Session transcripts and the daily analysis reports are used for chronology, debate, oral motions, and atmosphere. A proposal is not an adopted action, and a voice vote is not called unanimous unless the record says so.

Independent delegate study aid. Not an official publication of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

READER ORIENTATION

How to Use This Guide

This recap is designed for three reading speeds. Read the two-page executive briefing for the big picture, use the daily sections to reconstruct the convention, and consult the vote and election registers when exact results matter.

Verification rule

Discussion is not decision. A nomination is not an election. An amendment may pass while the main resolution later fails, and a threshold vote may not be a vote on the merits. When a source did not supply a numerical count, this guide says so rather than inventing one.

Contents

Section	What it contains
1. Executive Briefing	What changed, what did not, and the most consequential convention actions
2. Convention by the Numbers	Delegate counts, notable vote margins, and major financial figures
3. Election Results	President, vice-presidents, secretary, boards, commissions, and regents
4. Sunday, July 19	Opening business, mission, omnibus actions, worship commission, and Praesidium elections
5. Monday, July 20	Pastoral formation, structure, AI, church planting, campus ministry, and elections
6. Tuesday, July 21	Misconduct, dispute resolution, colloquy, seminary transparency, IVF, and partner churches
7. Wednesday, July 22	Finance, governance, universities, Communion, AALC, Scripture reading, and completed elections
8. Thursday, July 23	Final consent, Bylaw 4.2.4, mercy and witness, martyrdom, and adjournment
9. What It Means for Congregations	Article VII, advisory character, implementation, and pastoral communication
10. Implementation and 2029 Watch List	Who must act, what reports are due, and unresolved matters
11. Consolidated Vote Ledger	All verified resolution and procedural results in the supplied source set
12. Sources and Gospel Frame	Primary sources, verification notes, and a Christ-centered conclusion

SOURCE BOUNDARY

Source Hierarchy and Status Key

- 1. Holy Scripture and the convention theme, “Christ Is Risen Indeed,” based on 1 Corinthians 15:20-22.
- 2. Official LCMS election results, approved convention minutes, Today’s Business, adopted resolutions, and the published Proceedings.
- 3. Official LCMS Reporter daily convention coverage and convention office publications.
- 4. Session transcripts for chronology, questions, explanations, oral motions, and atmosphere.
- 5. The 2026 Convention Workbook, the 2023 LCMS Handbook, nominee materials, and the existing Sunday-through-Thursday session analyses.
- 6. Careful inference, clearly identified as interpretation rather than official action.

Status language	Meaning
Adopted	The convention approved the main question. Exact final wording should be read in the official record.
Adopted as amended	One or more amendments became part of the text before the final vote.
Voice adoption	The action passed audibly, but no exact count was supplied. It is not called unanimous unless the record does.
Consent calendar	Multiple items were adopted together unless enough delegates removed one for separate consideration.
Referred	The assembly sent the matter to another body. Referral is not adoption of the underlying proposal.
Failed	The motion did not receive the vote required for adoption.
Not considered	The item was never reached or was blocked procedurally. It was not defeated on the merits.
Pending / unresolved	The source set does not establish a final official disposition.

Where sources conflict

The official minutes and final Proceedings control action. A transcript may preserve words or a voice vote omitted from an interim summary, but this guide does not silently choose the more dramatic version. It labels the conflict and leaves final historical judgment to the controlling record.

EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

The Convention in Twelve Consequential Developments

Christ framed the work. The convention repeatedly returned to the bodily resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead. The final Matins made the point plainly: the Church is not preserved by a successful floor strategy, but by Christ through His Word and Sacraments.

Matthew C. Harrison was reelected president. He won the third pre-convention ballot with 2,524 votes, 50.10 percent. Joel D. Biermann received 2,414 votes, 47.92 percent.

A new Praesidium was elected and ranked. Peter K. Lange became first vice-president. Benjamin T. Ball, Alfonso O. Espinosa, Christopher S. Esget, Nabil S. Nour, and Eric C. Skovgaard were elected and ranked as regional vice-presidents.

The Commission on Worship returned. Resolution 4-06A passed with 67.96 percent, creating a seven-member commission with three convention-elected members and four presidentially appointed members. Its work is guidance, resources, hymnal and agenda processes, and review of corporate worship material.

Pastoral formation changed without dismantling existing contextual routes. Delegates retained SMP and related pathways, encouraged SMP pastors toward General Pastor Certification, authorized additional online M.Div. implementation, and adopted bylaw language for pastoral colloquy.

Accountability for sexual misconduct was strengthened. Resolution 10-03A passed 852-64, 93.01 percent, emphasizing completion of investigations, records, spiritual care, prevention, and accountability.

Seminary transparency increased. A floor resolution requiring annual publication of enrollment data passed 561-337, 62.47 percent.

The Synod made major governance changes. Delegates clarified conflict-of-interest rules, reorganized executive operations, established entity-governance provisions, and retained electronic congregational election of the Synod president while directing participation improvements.

University identity and governance received sustained attention. Delegates addressed Lutheran identity standards, CUS corporate status, regent accountability, Concordia Ann Arbor, Concordia Texas litigation-related uncertainty, and university worship.

Several controversial theological and practical matters became study or teaching actions. The convention acted on closed Communion, public reading of Scripture, men and women in the church, organ donation, IVF, AI, political ideologies, and partner-church relationships.

Mercy, witness, and mission remained substantial. Actions supported church planting, campus ministry, youth and young-adult research, urban congregations, global mission, missionary care, worker wellness, telehealth counseling, addiction response, adoption, fostering, and life ministry.

The convention ended with unfinished business left behind. The shortened Thursday schedule meant the religious-worker visa resolution was never considered. After adjournment sine die, unreached business was no longer pending before the 2026 convention.

The most important congregational distinction

Synod resolutions do not all function alike. Some amend Bylaws or direct Synod entities. Others encourage study, commend resources, or express the collective judgment of the Synod. Constitution Article VII remains essential: the Synod is advisory with respect to the self-government of congregations, while members also voluntarily walk together under Scripture, the Confessions, the Constitution, and the Bylaws.

EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

What Changed, What Did Not, and What Still Must Happen

Category	Plain-language meaning
Changed now	Bylaws and standing rules adopted or ratified, including pastoral colloquy, worship commission structure, governance and conflict rules, executive operations, and Bylaw 4.2.4 language.
Changed now	Election of officers, boards, commissions, and regents for the new triennium.
Assigned for implementation	Studies, reports, resource development, data publication, seminary and university work, CTCR projects, and district or board follow-through.
Encouraged, not centrally commanded	Many mission, mercy, education, congregational, and pastoral-practice resolutions call members to study, support, use resources, or strengthen local practice.
Did not happen	The convention did not abolish SMP, did not prohibit all online pastoral formation, did not sever fellowship with the AALC, did not impose an immediate ban on lay public reading of Scripture, and did not restructure CUS during the convention.
Did not happen	The religious-worker visa resolution was not voted down. It was not reached before adjournment.
Still open	Implementation details, budgets, timelines, CTCR and CUS reports, university litigation, AALC follow-through, Commission on Worship appointments, and 2029 convention proposals.

A Pastoral Reading Posture

- Tell the truth about what passed without turning every resolution into a congregational emergency.
- Distinguish confessional doctrine from prudential structure, policy, program design, and rhetoric.
- Explain the strongest fair case for an action and the strongest legitimate concern.
- Watch implementation verbs: study, encourage, direct, require, report, approve, supervise, and enforce do not mean the same thing.
- Keep the Gospel first. Convention action can serve the Church, but no convention vote creates or preserves the Church.

DATA SNAPSHOT

Convention by the Numbers

Figure	Meaning
69th	Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
July 18-23	Convention dates in Phoenix, Arizona
951	Voting delegates established Tuesday morning
944	Voting delegates reported Thursday morning
5,478	Registered electorate for the pre-convention presidential election
5,038	Third-ballot presidential votes cast, 91.97 percent turnout
50.10%	Matthew C. Harrison, winning presidential percentage
93.01%	Resolution 10-03A on sexual misconduct, 852-64
97.37%	Resolution 9-14A constitutional amendment vote before congregational ratification
67.96%	Resolution 4-06A reinstating the Commission on Worship
67.22%	Resolution 5-09A on public reading of Scripture study
79.04%	Thursday delegate resolution on modern-day martyrdom
\$1 million	National Offering goal
\$500,000	Reported seed gift toward the National Offering
\$175,000	Estimated annual cost for the reinstated Commission on Worship
\$800,000	Approximate annual estimate associated with missionary care and regional chaplaincy, subject to feasibility and need

DATA SNAPSHOT

Closest and Most Revealing Recorded Votes

A percentage can show consensus, division, or only whether a procedural threshold was met. The tables below separate substantive votes from procedural votes so that a close threshold action is not mistaken for a verdict on the merits.

Item	Question	Result	Why it matters
5-09A amendment	Study-material amendment	50.96% adopted	The convention narrowly added practical study materials before adopting the main public-reading resolution.
9-13 amendment	Restore presidential exceptions	54.33% adopted	A narrow majority preserved an exception mechanism in governance language.
10-01A	Dispute-resolution action	55.90% adopted	One of the convention's closest main-resolution votes.
Seminary data	Annual enrollment publication	561-337, 62.47%	Delegates chose recurring transparency over referral.
4-06A	Commission on Worship	67.96% adopted	A clear majority, but noticeably less consensus than many other actions.
9-15	Retain electronic presidential election	69.40% adopted	The current congregational election model was retained while participation work was assigned.
5-15	AALC action	813-87, 90.33%	A high-consensus call for good-faith rectification and continued dialogue.

How to Read Convention Vote Language

Phrase	What it does and does not tell you
Unanimous voice	The record expressly describes unanimity, but no individual ballot count was taken or published.
Near-unanimous voice	The chair and official report perceived overwhelming support. It is not an exact percentage.
Majority voice	The motion passed audibly, but the size of the majority is unknown.
Threshold met	Enough delegates supported a procedural step, such as removal from consent. The result is not a vote on the resolution itself.
Failed two-thirds	The motion may have received a simple majority but lacked the supermajority required for that procedural action.

ELECTION REGISTER

President and Praesidium

President of Synod

Round	Leader / winner	Votes	Percent	Context
Ballot 1	Matthew C. Harrison	2,050	43.84%	Joel D. Biermann 38.96%; others 17.20%
Ballot 2	Matthew C. Harrison	2,243	46.32%	Joel D. Biermann 46.03%; others 7.64%
Ballot 3	Matthew C. Harrison	2,524	50.10%	Elected; Biermann 47.92%; Ball 1.98%

The presidential election occurred before the convention through congregationally registered pastoral and lay voters. Third-ballot turnout was 91.97 percent.

First and Regional Vice-Presidents

Office	Elected	District	Votes	Percent	Ballot
First VP	Peter K. Lange	Missouri	559	60.37%	First ballot
Central regional VP	Benjamin T. Ball	Southern Illinois	488	51.91%*	Second ballot
East-Southeast regional VP	Christopher S. Esget	English	525	56.76%*	First ballot
Great Lakes regional VP	Eric C. Skovgaard	South Wisconsin	614	66.38%*	Third ballot
Great Plains regional VP	Nabil S. Nour	South Dakota	472	51.25%*	First ballot
West-Southwest regional VP	Alfonso O. Espinosa	Pacific Southwest	498	53.26%*	First ballot

*Calculated from the published final-ballot totals. Official election page controls.

Ranking of Regional Vice-Presidents

Praesidium rank	Elected	Final votes	Final percent
Second VP	Benjamin T. Ball	493	52.90%*
Third VP	Alfonso O. Espinosa	520	55.97%*
Fourth VP	Christopher S. Esget	494	53.12%*
Fifth VP	Nabil S. Nour	618	66.74%*
Sixth VP	Eric C. Skovgaard	Unanimous	No numerical count

ELECTION REGISTER

Secretary, Mission Boards, CTCR, and Historical Institute

Secretary of Synod

Candidate	Votes	Percent	Result
John W. Sias	691	82.26%*	Elected
Richard C. Rudowske Jr.	149	17.74%*	Not elected

Body	Category	Elected	District	Final vote
Board for National Mission	Central worker	Michael P. Schuermann	Central Illinois	557
Board for National Mission	Great Lakes worker	Peter C. Bender	South Wisconsin	551
Board for National Mission	West-Southwest worker	Thomas E. Chryst	Texas	555, ballot 2
Board for National Mission	East-Southeast lay	David L. Daniels	Southeastern	454
Board for National Mission	Great Plains lay	Sarah Rausch	South Dakota	609
Board for International Mission	East-Southeast worker	James A. Douthwaite	SELC	460
Board for International Mission	Great Plains worker	Daniel Preus	Minnesota North	494, ballot 2
Board for International Mission	Central lay	Adam D. Fosse	Kansas	533
Board for International Mission	Great Lakes lay	John L. Powers	South Wisconsin	549
Board for International Mission	West-Southwest lay	Terence Lung	California-Nevada-Hawaii	548
CTCR	Ordained parish pastor	Mark P. Surburg	Southern Illinois	542, ballot 3
CTCR	Lay	Paul P. Edmon	New England	472
Concordia Historical Institute	Ordained, position 1	Rodney A. Benkendorf	Missouri	462, ballot 2
Concordia Historical Institute	Ordained, position 2	Robert V. Roethemeyer	Indiana	576, ballot 2
Concordia Historical Institute	Commissioned / lay	Matthew C. Phillips	Nebraska	529, ballot 2

ELECTION REGISTER

Boards of Regents and Commission on Worship

Entity	Category	Elected	District	Final vote
CUNE Regents	Lay, position 2	Bruce D. Schultz	Kansas	547, ballot 2
CSP Regents	Ordained	Donald J. Fondow	Minnesota North	521, ballot 2
CSP Regents	Commissioned	Tia M. Esser	South Dakota	441, ballot 2
CSP Regents	Lay, position 1	Paul C. Hinz	Texas	508, ballot 3
CSP Regents	Lay, position 2	Rosa Summers	Minnesota South	587
Concordia Texas Regents	Ordained	Neil S. Vanderbush	Texas	441, ballot 2
Concordia Texas Regents	Commissioned	Miguel A. Ruiz	Texas	579
Concordia Texas Regents	Lay, position 1	William Brandt	Texas	458
Concordia Texas Regents	Lay, position 2	Bob L. Ssekyanzi	Texas	654
CUW Regents	Ordained	Lance A. O'Donnell	South Wisconsin	577, ballot 2
CUW Regents	Commissioned	Jennifer Knox	South Wisconsin	646
CUW Regents	Lay, position 1	David Lambert	English	477, ballot 2
CUW Regents	Lay, position 2	Stephen M. Saunders	South Wisconsin	615
Commission on Worship	Ordained parish pastor	Steven P. Mueller	Pacific Southwest	437, ballot 2
Commission on Worship	Commissioned	Paul M. Soulek	Nebraska	483, ballot 3
Commission on Worship	Lay	Joseph L. Olson	South Wisconsin	505, ballot 3

Concordia Texas caution

The convention elected regents so they could serve if they were later able to be seated. Election did not itself resolve the litigation or guarantee seating.

Board of Directors Winners Verified in the Official Register

Category	Elected	District	Final vote
Central lay	Andrew N. Grams	Mid-South	479, ballot 1
West-Southwest lay	Jesse L. Yow Jr.	California-Nevada-Hawaii	458, ballot 2
At-large lay	John W. Edson	Minnesota South	551, ballot 2
At-large commissioned	Jan Lohmeyer	Southern	550, ballot 2

The official election page states that six Board of Directors members were elected. The four entries above are the winners available in the verified source extract used for this recap. The final official election register controls the complete six-member list.

DAY 1

Sunday, July 19: Mission, Worship, and the New Praesidium

Sunday moved rapidly from worship and presidential-election reporting into officer elections, omnibus actions, international mission, mission priorities, and the reinstatement of the Commission on Worship. The convention's early pattern was already visible: broad consensus on mission and thanksgiving actions, closer margins on structure and worship governance.

Item	Action	Status	Vote	Why it matters
1-01A	All Nations and Gospel witness	Adopted	95.47%	Mission and witness
1-02	500th anniversary of catechisms	Adopted	84.77%	Catechesis
1-03A	Black Ministry	Adopted	93.12%	Mission and history
1-04 + 2-01A	Deaf Ministry and Armed Forces	Consent adopted	864-29, 96.75%	Two actions adopted together
Omnibus A	Referral items	Adopted	92.35%	Items referred rather than debated separately
Omnibus B	Previously addressed items	Adopted	92.37%	Prior convention action recognized
Omnibus C	Thanksgiving and encouragement	Adopted	97.06%	Corporate thanksgiving
2-02A	Global mission participation	Adopted	96.97%	Congregational and international mission
2-03A	Missionary care and regional chaplaincy	Adopted	90.78%	Care, supervision, and implementation cost
2-04	Independent international congregations	Adopted	90.97%	Supervision and pastoral-care framework
2-05	Latin America and Caribbean missions	Adopted by voice	No count reported	Removed from consent, then adopted
4-01	Tell the Next Generation	Unanimous voice	No count reported	Intergenerational faith formation
4-02A	Mission-emphasis process	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported	Future triennial emphasis process
4-03	Sunset enduring mission priorities	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported	Ends a standing priority structure
4-06A	Reinstate Commission on Worship	Adopted	67.96%	New commission and bylaw structure

Sunday's Practical Meaning

- The new Praesidium was substantially determined on the first convention business day.
- Missionary care and international pastoral supervision received strong support, but implementation remains dependent on feasibility, funding, and administrative detail.
- The Commission on Worship became permanent bylaw structure, not merely a temporary project. Its guidance and resource role will matter throughout the triennium.
- No Sunday action erased congregational Christian freedom in ceremonies or made external uniformity the essence of church unity. The adopted wording joined the pursuit of recognizable unity with appreciation for responsible practices in harmony with the common confession.

DAY 2

Monday, July 20: Formation, Structure, AI, and Mission Capacity

Monday was the convention's broadest operational day. Delegates worked through pastoral formation, national-office structure, conflicts of interest, entity governance, artificial intelligence, church planting, campus ministry, youth and young-adult research, and a large election block.

Item	Subject	Status	Vote
Consent	1-05A, 1-08A, 1-13A, 1-14, 9-03, 9-04, 9-05, 9-06, 9-07	Adopted by voice	No count reported
6-01A + 6-02	Pastoral formation actions	Adopted by unanimous consent	No count reported
6-03	Pastoral formation report / hymn resolve struck	Adopted by voice	No count reported
6-04A	Additional online M.Div. implementation	Adopted	75.45%
6-05A	Pastoral formation pathways	Adopted	81.86%
6-06A	SMP framework and purpose	Adopted	80.59%
6-06A amendment	Remove age restriction	Failed	45.70%-54.30%
6-07A	Encourage SMP pastors toward General Pastor Certification	Adopted	88.58%
6-08	Pastoral formation action	Adopted by voice	No count reported
4-05	Life Together action	Adopted	95.58%
4-04B	Life Together / church practice action	Adopted	92.78%
4-07	Political violence and public life	Adopted	93.37%
4-07 amendment	Add explicit Charles J. Kirk reference	Failed	45.65% in favor
4-08A	Political and social ideologies study	Adopted	90.01%
4-09	Artificial intelligence	Adopted	96.21%
9-02A	Governance action	Adopted	95.01%
9-08	Conflict-of-interest clarification	Adopted by voice	No count reported
9-09	Executive coordination	Adopted by voice	No count reported
9-11	Entity-governance framework	Adopted	73.39%
1-07A	Church planting	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
1-12	Campus ministry	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
1-09A	Youth and young-adult research	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported

Monday's Practical Meaning

- The convention did not abolish SMP, CMC, or other contextual pathways. It reaffirmed formation standards while retaining contextual routes and encouraging movement toward broader certification where possible.
- Online pastoral formation expanded, but “online” did not mean formation without accountability, residency components, mentoring, supervision, or seminary responsibility.
- Artificial intelligence became a formal Synod study and resource issue. The action did not settle every ethical question, but it assigned theological and practical work for the triennium.
- Governance changes require close implementation review because verbs such as oversee, coordinate, approve, and direct redistribute authority. At the same time, church planting and campus ministry were among the day's clearest outward-facing actions.

DAY 3

Tuesday, July 21: Accountability, Transparency, Colloquy, and Theological Questions

Tuesday combined a large election block with one of the convention's most consequential accountability resolutions. Delegates also altered floor procedure, required seminary enrollment transparency, placed pastoral-colloquy provisions in the Bylaws, and addressed partner churches, organ donation, and IVF.

Item	Question	Status	Vote
Registration	Establish 951 voting delegates	Adopted	951 delegates
Queue priority	Ordinary information requests use normal queue priority	Adopted	575-308
Standing Rule 10	Raise consent-removal threshold from 10% to 15%	Adopted by voice	No count reported
10-05A removal	Remove item from consent	Threshold met	237 yes, 656 no; 26.54% yes
Consent	4-10, 5-03, 5-06A, 5-07, 5-13A, 9-01B, 10-06	Adopted by voice	No count reported
10-02A	Dispute resolution and expulsion	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
10-03A closure	Close debate	Adopted	609-300
10-03A	Sexual misconduct accountability and spiritual care	Adopted	852-64, 93.01%
6-09A	SMP supervision	Adopted by voice	No count reported
6-10	Seminary adjunct faculty	Adopted after referral attempt	No numerical main vote reported
6-11	Church-worker formation and recruitment	Unanimous voice	No count reported
Seminary data	Publish annual enrollment data	Adopted	561-337, 62.47%
6-12B	Pastoral colloquy Bylaws	Adopted by voice	No count reported
6-13	Pastor support and sustainable ministry models	Adopted	No count reported
10-04A	Dispute-resolution action	Adopted by voice	No count reported
10-01A	Dispute-resolution action	Adopted	55.90%
10-05A	Dispute-resolution action after correction	Stood adopted	81.63%
5-01	Fellowship with Bolivia	Unanimous voice	No count reported
5-02	Fellowship with Lutheran Mission-Australia	Unanimous voice	No count reported
5-10	Organ donation	Strong-majority voice	Not unanimous; no count
5-11	In vitro fertilization	Majority voice	No count reported

DAY 3

Tuesday’s Practical Meaning

- Resolution 10-03A is not merely symbolic. District presidents, investigators, institutions, and church leaders must follow through on records, investigations, spiritual care, prevention, and communication. Annual seminary data now add a recurring transparency expectation.
- Pastoral colloquy is more deeply embedded in bylaw procedure. The key implementation question is whether standards and evaluation are objective, transparent, and consistent across candidates.
- The IVF action raised serious moral concerns about embryos and reproductive technologies, but pastoral care must distinguish moral clarity from simplistic judgment of grieving couples. The consent-calendar threshold also rose to 15 percent, making early delegate coordination more important.

Confirmed, Assigned, and Still Open

Area	Confirmed action	Still open
Misconduct	10-03A adopted 852-64 with investigation, records, care, and prevention responsibilities.	Consistency across districts, survivor care, implementation, and public accountability.
Seminary data	Annual enrollment publication required.	Definitions, comparability, timeliness, and whether outcomes beyond enrollment are included.
Colloquy	Procedure placed in the Bylaws.	Objective criteria, preparation, panel consistency, feedback, and appeals.
IVF	A theological and pastoral action was adopted by majority voice.	Pastoral teaching, embryo ethics, technology changes, and care for grieving couples.

DAY 4

Wednesday, July 22: Governance, Universities, Fellowship, Communion, and Scripture Reading

Wednesday carried the convention's densest cluster of close-to-home congregational questions. The assembly completed elections, addressed finance and governance, retained electronic presidential elections, worked through university identity and governance, and debated AALC relations, closed Communion, and public reading of Scripture.

Item	Question	Status	Vote
Consent	3-07, 5-12, 8-03, 8-05A, 8-06, 9-16A	Adopted by voice	No count reported
8-04A	Finance action	Unanimous voice	No count reported
8-02A	Finance action	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
8-07	Finance action	Adopted by voice	No count reported
8-01	Finance action	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
HotChalk delegate resolution	Publish legal fees and payment sources	Failed	46.47% in favor
9-10A	Structure and administration	Adopted by voice	No count reported
9-12	Structure and administration	Adopted by voice	No count reported
9-13 amendment	Reinstate presidential exceptions	Adopted	54.33%
9-13	Structure and administration	Adopted by voice	No count reported
9-14A	Constitutional amendment	Adopted	97.37%; requires congregational ratification
9-15	Retain electronic presidential election and improve participation	Adopted	69.40%
7-01 through 7-05	University actions	Unanimous voice	No count reported
7-06A amendment	Change "should" to "must"	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
7-06A	University worship/accountability action	Adopted	90.66%
5-15 amendment	Add "work in good faith" language	Adopted	574-310
5-15	AALC good-faith rectification and dialogue	Adopted	813-87, 90.33%
7-07A	Define and clarify Lutheran identity	Adopted	84.39%
7-08A	Study CUS corporate status	Adopted	94.13%
7-09A	Concordia Ann Arbor thanksgiving and support	Adopted	89.99%
5-04	Partner-church concerns	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
5-05	Closed Communion	Adopted	87.35%
5-09A amendment	Add practical study materials	Adopted	50.96%
5-09A	Public reading of Scripture study	Adopted	67.22%
5-08A	Men and women in the church	Adopted	84.32%
3-01A	Life ministry	Adopted; reconsideration failed	No count reported
3-02A	Adoption and fostering	Adopted	No count reported
10-07	Respectfully decline overtures	Adopted by voice	No count reported

DAY 4

Wednesday’s Practical Meaning

- Resolution 5-15 did not suspend or sever fellowship with the AALC. It called for good-faith rectification, reconciliatory dialogue, administrative tracking, continued work, and later reporting.
- Resolution 5-05 reaffirmed closed Communion and pastoral stewardship. It should not be explained as abolishing every exercise of pastoral judgment in extraordinary circumstances.
- Resolution 5-09A began a study-and-report process on public reading of Scripture. It did not create an immediate Synod-wide ban on lay or female readers.
- University identity work was assigned to CUS in consultation with CTCR. A detailed identity test was not immediately imposed on every campus Wednesday afternoon.
- The CUS corporate-status resolution launched a comparative study. It did not restructure the university system during the convention.
- Concordia Ann Arbor received thanksgiving and encouragement, not a convention guarantee that reduced programs would reopen or that financial realities had changed.

Source conflict to preserve

The transcript records Resolution 5-14 as introduced and adopted by voice vote, while the supplied official Session 8 minutes omit that action. This recap does not silently declare an official result. Final Proceedings should resolve the discrepancy.

Confirmed, Likely, Open, and Avoid

Issue	Confirmed	Likely / open	Avoid saying
AALC	Good-faith rectification, dialogue, tracking, and reporting.	Procedures and disputed cases still require joint work.	Fellowship was severed or suspended.
Lutheran identity	CUS and CTCR have assigned definition and standards work.	Training, worship, curriculum, personnel, and assessment may be affected.	A complete identity test was imposed immediately.
CUS governance	A comparative study was adopted.	A major 2029 structural proposal may follow.	CUS was restructured Wednesday.
Closed Communion	Doctrine and pastoral stewardship were reaffirmed.	Supervisory consultation and catechesis will likely increase.	All pastoral judgment was abolished.
Public reading	Study, materials, discussion, and reporting were assigned.	A clearer 2029 proposal may result.	An immediate Synod-wide ban was adopted.

DAY 5

Thursday, July 23: Final Actions and Adjournment

Thursday was short, compressed, and consequential. Delegates accepted a shortened schedule without objection, completed selected Mercy and National Witness work, ratified a bylaw change, considered two delegate resolutions, and adjourned before 10:00 a.m. Mountain Standard Time.

Item	Question	Status	Vote
Credentials	Final voting body	Accepted by voice	944 delegates
Remove 3-05A	Remove from consent	Failed threshold	9.46% in favor
Consent	3-03A disaster response + 3-05A worker wellness	Adopted by voice	No count reported
Delegate seating	Publish future seat assignments	Failed	36.60% in favor
10-08	Ratify Bylaw 4.2.4 amendment	Adopted by voice	No count reported
3-04A	Counseling and telehealth	Adopted by voice	No count reported
3-06A	Growing addiction crisis	Adopted by voice	No count reported
1-10	Apologetics and cultural idolatry	Unanimous voice	No count reported
1-06A	Urban congregations and schools	Unanimous voice	No count reported
1-11A	God's design for the family	Unanimous voice	No count reported
Martyrdom amendment	Delete Charlie Kirk paragraph	Failed	No numerical count in supplied summary
Martyrdom resolution	Modern-day martyrdom	Adopted	79.04%
Religious-worker visas	Extend orders of the day to reach resolution	Failed to reach two-thirds	Resolution never considered
Adjournment	Adjourn sine die	Final	All unreached 2026 business ended

Thursday's Practical Meaning

- The disaster-response and worker-wellness resolutions became convention action through consent.
- Resolution 10-08 cured a written-notice problem and finalized the Bylaw 4.2.4 amendment, assigning the determination of extenuating circumstances to the Synod president.
- The modern-day martyrdom resolution passed with the Charlie Kirk paragraph retained after the deletion amendment failed.
- The religious-worker visa proposal was not defeated on the merits. The assembly simply did not extend the schedule far enough to consider it.
- There was no Friday business session. Adjournment sine die ended every unreached proposal as 2026 convention business.

THEMATIC GUIDE

Mission, Congregations, and the Next Generation

The convention's most outward-facing work was often less controversial than its internal-governance work. Delegates repeatedly supported mission participation, church planting, campus ministry, urban ministry, children and youth, apologetics, missionary care, and international partnerships.

Area	What the convention set in motion
Church planting	Congregation-based planting and a national pipeline were encouraged. Implementation depends on districts, mission offices, planters, local congregations, and sustainable funding.
Campus ministry	The convention restored national attention and support. Congregations near campuses should expect partnership opportunities rather than wait for a national office to do local ministry for them.
Youth and young adults	Research on Millennials, Generation Z, and Generation Alpha was assigned. The useful question is not merely how to retain an institution, but how to proclaim Christ, catechize, listen, and send.
Urban ministry	Networking, shared resources, and support for urban congregations and schools were encouraged.
International mission	Missionary care, regional chaplaincy, Latin America and Caribbean thanksgiving, Bolivia, Lutheran Mission-Australia, and disaster-response partnerships all received support.
Apologetics	Resource coordination was assigned to help Christians confess Christ amid cultural idolatry and skepticism.

Harvest Partnership lens

The strongest mission actions equip congregations, workers, and partners for the Spirit's Sending without making national machinery the center. High accountability and low control are not opposites: clear confession, transparent stewardship, and trusted local initiative belong together.

Questions for Congregational Leaders

- Which convention actions create a real invitation for local partnership in the next twelve months?
- Where can our congregation pray, send, fund, host, mentor, or plant rather than merely comment?
- How will we measure fruit without reducing mission to institutional metrics?
- What is one next-generation ministry we can strengthen now while Synod studies and reports continue?

THEMATIC GUIDE

Pastoral Formation, SMP, Colloquy, and Seminary Transparency

Action	Practical reading
6-04A	Authorized additional online M.Div. implementation under seminary and Synod oversight. It did not authorize formation without formation.
6-05A	Affirmed multiple pastoral-formation routes while maintaining the importance of standards and accountability.
6-06A	Reaffirmed the present SMP framework and original purpose. An amendment removing the age restriction failed.
6-07A	Encouraged SMP pastors toward General Pastor Certification and shared financial support from congregations, districts, seminaries, and partners.
6-09A	Addressed SMP supervision and accountability.
6-10	Addressed seminary adjunct faculty after a referral attempt.
6-11	Encouraged church-worker formation and recruitment.
Seminary data	Required annual enrollment publication, giving the church a recurring factual baseline.
6-12B	Placed pastoral-colloquy procedure into the Bylaws.
6-13	Encouraged support for pastors and sustainable ministry models.

Strongest Support and Strongest Concern

Strongest support

The Synod needs faithful, well-formed pastors, transparent outcomes, robust mentoring, and formation paths capable of serving varied mission contexts. Seminary responsibility and public accountability protect congregations and candidates.

Strongest concern

Formation rules can become detached from the actual mission field or function as unnecessary gates. Colloquy standards can also become uneven if criteria, preparation, evaluation, and appeals are not objective and transparent.

What to Watch

- The exact design, residency, mentoring, assessment, and accreditation of additional online M.Div. options.
- Whether SMP and contextual-route reporting distinguishes program quality, context, retention, and actual pastoral outcomes.
- Whether colloquy expectations are published clearly enough for candidates, congregations, panels, and district presidents.
- Whether annual seminary data are complete, comparable, and timely rather than selectively presented.

THEMATIC GUIDE

Worship, Public Reading, Communion, and Christian Freedom

Item	What it means
4-06A Commission on Worship	Created a seven-member commission. Three members are elected by convention, four are appointed by the Synod president after consultation with the Council of Presidents. Estimated annual cost: \$175,000.
Commission duties	Guidance, resources, consultation, hymnal and agenda processes, review of corporate worship materials, and coordination with Concordia Publishing House.
7-06A university worship	Strengthened university accountability language, including a successful “should” to “must” amendment.
5-05 closed Communion	Reaffirmed the doctrine and pastoral stewardship of the Sacrament. It is likely to be used in supervisory consultation and catechesis.
5-09A public reading	Assigned study, discussion, practical materials, and reporting. It did not immediately prohibit a practice across congregations.

Confessional anchor

Augsburg Confession VII locates the true unity of the Church in agreement concerning the doctrine of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments. Formula of Concord X protects Christian freedom in ceremonies not commanded or forbidden by God. That does not make practice unimportant, but it does prevent external uniformity from becoming the Gospel.

Congregational Communication

- Do not tell members that the convention banned women or laypeople from reading Scripture. It did not.
- Do not tell members that closed Communion is merely a local preference. The convention reaffirmed it as a doctrinal and pastoral practice tied to confession and care.
- Do explain that the Commission on Worship serves the Synod through guidance and resources, while congregations retain their constitutional self-government and responsibilities under Synod membership.
- Do keep worship conversations centered on Christ’s gifts, doctrinal purity, faithful pastoral care, and the edification of the congregation rather than tribe, branding, or aesthetic suspicion.

THEMATIC GUIDE

Universities, Lutheran Identity, and Governance

Action	Plain-language effect
7-01 to 7-05	A cluster of university actions adopted by unanimous voice vote.
7-06A	University worship and accountability action, 90.66 percent.
7-07A	CUS, in consultation with CTCR, must define and clarify Lutheran identity, continue outcome standards, and report.
7-08A	Comparative study of CUS corporate status and governance, with possible future structural proposals.
7-09A	Thanksgiving and support regarding Concordia Ann Arbor, without guaranteeing restoration of programs or finances.
Concordia Texas	Regents were elected, but litigation-related uncertainty remained. Election did not guarantee seating.

The Central Tension

The strongest case for these actions is that universities bearing the Concordia name should be visibly, confessionally, and operationally Lutheran. The strongest concern is that “Lutheran identity” can be reduced to external markers, culturally narrow preferences, or centralized institutional control rather than Scripture, the Confessions, the Gospel, faithful vocation, and accountable mission.

Implementation test

Ask whether identity standards are clear enough to be meaningful, theological enough to be Lutheran, broad enough to recognize faithful local contexts, and accountable enough to prevent branding without substance.

What to Watch Before 2029

- The actual definition of Lutheran identity and the role each body plays in writing, evaluating, and enforcing it.
- Whether CUS governance proposals increase accountability, centralization, or both.
- How regents are trained, removed, seated, and held responsible for confession, finances, and institutional mission.
- Whether Concordia Ann Arbor and Concordia Texas developments are reported transparently and distinguished from convention rhetoric.

THEMATIC GUIDE

Fellowship, Mercy, Life, and Public Witness

Topic	Convention action
AALC, 5-15	Good-faith rectification and reconciliatory dialogue, 90.33 percent. Fellowship was not severed.
Bolivia, 5-01	Fellowship action adopted unanimously by voice.
Lutheran Mission-Australia, 5-02	Fellowship action adopted unanimously by voice.
Men and women, 5-08A	Adopted 84.32 percent and explicitly commended women serving in a wide range of commissioned and congregational vocations.
Organ donation, 5-10	Adopted by a strong, but not unanimous, voice vote.
IVF, 5-11	Adopted by majority voice, raising embryo-protection and pastoral-care concerns.
Life ministry, 3-01A	Adopted; reconsideration failed.
Adoption and fostering, 3-02A	Adopted and encouraged congregational and ministry support.
Telehealth, 3-04A	Assigned study and encouragement while acknowledging licensing and regulatory complexity.
Addiction, 3-06A	Called for resources, district partnerships, and a 2029 report.
Modern-day martyrdom	Passed 79.04 percent with the Charlie Kirk paragraph retained.

Pastoral Cautions

- Fellowship actions should be explained from official agreements and adopted wording, not from social-media summaries or inferred motives.
- IVF and embryo ethics require clear Law and abundant Gospel. Couples carrying grief, infertility, regret, or loss need truth and pastoral care, not a convention resolution used as a club.
- Mercy actions are strongest when they join bodily care, spiritual care, competent professionals, legal awareness, and local relationships.
- Public witness should reject racism, antisemitism, political violence, and idolatry without confusing the Gospel with a political coalition.

GOVERNANCE GUIDE

Constitution Article VII and Congregational Self-Government

The most common post-convention mistake is to treat every adopted resolution as though it were a direct order to every congregation. The second most common mistake is to treat every Synod action as optional and irrelevant. Both flatten the constitutional relationship.

Kind of action	How to read it
Bylaw or constitutional change	Binding within the Synod's agreed constitutional order, subject to any required ratification and proper implementation.
Direction to a Synod board, commission, office, or institution	Creates an assignment for that entity. It does not automatically become a local congregational policy.
Doctrinal reaffirmation or study	Carries serious weight in walking together and may shape supervision, teaching, and future action. The exact wording and source authority matter.
Encouragement or commendation	Calls members toward a practice or resource without using the same compulsory force as a bylaw.
Local congregation	Retains self-government under Constitution Article VII while voluntarily accepting the responsibilities and conditions of Synod membership.

A useful sentence for congregations

"The convention has spoken and assigned real work, but we still need to read the exact resolves, identify who is directed to act, and distinguish Synod guidance from matters entrusted to the congregation and its called pastor."

Four Questions Before Saying "The Synod Now Requires..."

- What is the exact adopted wording, not merely the title or a whereas clause?
- Who is the grammatical subject of each resolve: the Synod, a commission, a district, a congregation, pastors, universities, or all members?
- What verb is used: encourage, commend, request, direct, require, approve, supervise, or enforce?
- Does the action amend governing documents, assign a study, express doctrine, establish policy, or merely urge a practice?

Law and Gospel in Post-Convention Teaching

The Law exposes sin, false doctrine, abuse, institutional self-protection, fear, pride, and neglect of the neighbor. The Gospel does not arrive as a better governance plan. It announces Christ crucified and risen for sinners, forgiveness in His name, Baptismal identity, and His gifts in Word and Sacrament. Convention teaching is pastoral only when it serves that distinction.

NEXT TRIENNium

Implementation and 2029 Watch List

Area	What to monitor
Commission on Worship	Four presidential appointments, staffing, budget, review processes, congregational resources, and how guidance relates to Christian freedom.
Pastoral formation	Design and outcomes of online M.Div. options; SMP purpose, age rules, supervision, and pathways to General Pastor Certification.
Pastoral colloquy	Published criteria, preparation, panel consistency, pastoral-experience evaluation, feedback, appeals, and candidate transparency.
Sexual misconduct	Completion of investigations, records retention, survivor care, prevention, district consistency, and public accountability.
Seminary data	Annual publication, definitions, comparability, enrollment trends, placement, debt, retention, and program outcomes.
CUS and universities	Lutheran identity definition, outcome standards, governance study, regent training, CUAA developments, and Concordia Texas litigation.
AALC	Good-faith dialogue, list and tracking procedures, disputed cases, operating agreements, and report to the next convention.
Public reading of Scripture	CTCR or assigned study materials, exegesis, historical practice, pastoral office questions, and proposed 2029 action.
Closed Communion	Catechesis, supervisory consultation, treatment of extraordinary circumstances, and pastoral communication.
AI	Theological ethics, sermon and teaching integrity, privacy, intellectual property, pastoral care, education, and institutional use.
Governance	Conflict rules, executive reorganization, entity oversight, Bylaw 4.2.4 implementation, constitutional ratification, and electronic election participation.
Mission and mercy	Church plants, campus ministry staffing, missionary care funding, urban partnerships, telehealth feasibility, addiction resources, adoption and fostering support.

Where Future Opposition or Amendment May Be Necessary

- When implementation exceeds the exact authority granted by the adopted resolution or Bylaws.
- When study language is treated publicly as though the study has already reached a doctrinal conclusion.
- When “Lutheran identity” or “uniformity” is detached from Scripture and the Confessions and reduced to preference or control.
- When accountability mechanisms protect institutions more readily than people harmed by misconduct or abuse.
- When mission is invoked without the Gospel, or confessional language is used to block faithful mission and local responsibility.
- When permanent bureaucracy is created for a problem that could be addressed through service, consultation, a time-limited task force, or a sunset review.

REFERENCE APPENDIX

Consolidated Vote Ledger

All verified resolution and procedural results available in the supplied source set

“No count reported” means the action was recorded by voice, unanimous consent, or descriptive summary without a numerical total. It does not mean zero opposition.

Day	Item	Subject	Status	Vote / result
Sun	1-01A	All Nations / Gospel witness	Adopted	95.47%
Sun	1-02	Catechisms 500th	Adopted	84.77%
Sun	1-03A	Black Ministry	Adopted	93.12%
Sun	1-04 + 2-01A	Deaf Ministry + Armed Forces consent	Adopted	864-29, 96.75%
Sun	Omnibus A	Referral items	Adopted	92.35%
Sun	Omnibus B	Previously addressed	Adopted	92.37%
Sun	Omnibus C	Thanksgiving / encouragement	Adopted	97.06%
Sun	2-02A	Global mission participation	Adopted	96.97%
Sun	2-03A	Missionary care / regional chaplaincy	Adopted	90.78%
Sun	2-04	International supervision framework	Adopted	90.97%
Sun	2-05	Latin America / Caribbean missions	Voice adoption	No count reported
Sun	4-01	Tell the Next Generation	Unanimous voice	No count reported
Sun	4-02A	Mission-emphasis process	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
Sun	4-03	Sunset mission priorities	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
Sun	4-06A	Commission on Worship	Adopted	67.96%
Mon	Consent	1-05A, 1-08A, 1-13A, 1-14, 9-03, 9-04, 9-05, 9-06, 9-07	Voice adoption	No count reported
Mon	6-01A + 6-02	Pastoral formation	Unanimous consent	No count reported
Mon	6-03	Pastoral formation action	Voice adoption	No count reported
Mon	6-04A	Online M.Div. implementation	Adopted	75.45%
Mon	6-05A	Formation pathways	Adopted	81.86%
Mon	6-06A	SMP framework	Adopted	80.59%
Mon	6-06A amend.	Remove age restriction	Failed	45.70% yes
Mon	6-07A	SMP to General Pastor Certification	Adopted	88.58%
Mon	6-08	Pastoral formation action	Voice adoption	No count reported
Mon	4-05	Life Together action	Adopted	95.58%

REFERENCE APPENDIX

Consolidated Vote Ledger, Continued

Day	Item	Subject	Status	Vote / result
Mon	4-04B	Life Together / practice	Adopted	92.78%
Mon	4-07	Political violence / public life	Adopted	93.37%
Mon	4-07 amend.	Add Charles J. Kirk reference	Failed	45.65% yes
Mon	4-08A	Political / social ideologies study	Adopted	90.01%
Mon	4-09	Artificial intelligence	Adopted	96.21%
Mon	9-02A	Governance action	Adopted	95.01%
Mon	9-08	Conflict of interest	Voice adoption	No count reported
Mon	9-09	Executive coordination	Voice adoption	No count reported
Mon	9-11	Entity governance	Adopted	73.39%
Mon	1-07A	Church planting	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
Mon	1-12	Campus ministry	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
Mon	1-09A	Youth / young adult research	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
Tue	Queue	Ordinary questions normal priority	Adopted	575-308
Tue	Rule 10	Consent threshold to 15%	Voice adoption	No count reported
Tue	10-05A removal	Remove from consent	Threshold met	237-656
Tue	Consent	4-10, 5-03, 5-06A, 5-07, 5-13A, 9-01B, 10-06	Voice adoption	No count reported
Tue	10-02A	Dispute resolution / expulsion	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
Tue	10-03A closure	Close debate	Adopted	609-300
Tue	10-03A	Sexual misconduct accountability	Adopted	852-64, 93.01%
Tue	6-09A	SMP supervision	Voice adoption	No count reported
Tue	6-10	Seminary adjunct faculty	Adopted	No numerical main vote
Tue	6-11	Worker formation / recruitment	Unanimous voice	No count reported
Tue	Seminary data	Annual enrollment publication	Adopted	561-337, 62.47%
Tue	6-12B	Pastoral colloquy Bylaws	Voice adoption	No count reported
Tue	6-13	Pastor support / sustainable models	Adopted	No count reported

REFERENCE APPENDIX

Consolidated Vote Ledger, Continued

Day	Item	Subject	Status	Vote / result
Tue	10-04A	Dispute-resolution action	Voice adoption	No count reported
Tue	10-01A	Dispute-resolution action	Adopted	55.90%
Tue	10-05A	Dispute-resolution action	Stood adopted	81.63%
Tue	5-01	Bolivia fellowship	Unanimous voice	No count reported
Tue	5-02	Lutheran Mission-Australia	Unanimous voice	No count reported
Tue	5-10	Organ donation	Strong-majority voice	No count reported
Tue	5-11	IVF	Majority voice	No count reported
Wed	Consent	3-07, 5-12, 8-03, 8-05A, 8-06, 9-16A	Voice adoption	No count reported
Wed	8-04A	Finance action	Unanimous voice	No count reported
Wed	8-02A	Finance action	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
Wed	8-07	Finance action	Voice adoption	No count reported
Wed	8-01	Finance action	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
Wed	HotChalk	Publish legal fees	Failed	46.47% yes
Wed	9-10A	Structure / administration	Voice adoption	No count reported
Wed	9-12	Structure / administration	Voice adoption	No count reported
Wed	9-13 amend.	Presidential exceptions	Adopted	54.33%
Wed	9-13	Structure / administration	Voice adoption	No count reported
Wed	9-14A	Constitutional amendment	Adopted	97.37%
Wed	9-15	Retain electronic presidential election	Adopted	69.40%
Wed	7-01 to 7-05	University actions	Unanimous voice	No count reported
Wed	7-06A amend.	“Should” to “must”	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
Wed	7-06A	University worship / accountability	Adopted	90.66%
Wed	5-15 amend.	Good-faith wording	Adopted	574-310
Wed	5-15	AALC rectification / dialogue	Adopted	813-87, 90.33%
Wed	7-07A	Lutheran identity	Adopted	84.39%

REFERENCE APPENDIX

Consolidated Vote Ledger, Continued

Day	Item	Subject	Status	Vote / result
Wed	7-08A	CUS corporate-status study	Adopted	94.13%
Wed	7-09A	Concordia Ann Arbor	Adopted	89.99%
Wed	5-04	Partner-church concerns	Near-unanimous voice	No count reported
Wed	5-05	Closed Communion	Adopted	87.35%
Wed	5-09A amend.	Practical study materials	Adopted	50.96%
Wed	5-09A	Public reading of Scripture study	Adopted	67.22%
Wed	5-08A	Men and women in church	Adopted	84.32%
Wed	3-01A	Life ministry	Adopted; reconsideration failed	No count reported
Wed	3-02A	Adoption / fostering	Adopted	No count reported
Wed	10-07	Decline overtures	Voice adoption	No count reported
Thu	Remove 3-05A	Remove from consent	Failed threshold	9.46% yes
Thu	Consent	3-03A + 3-05A	Voice adoption	No count reported
Thu	Delegate seating	Publish assignments	Failed	36.60% yes
Thu	10-08	Ratify Bylaw 4.2.4	Voice adoption	No count reported
Thu	3-04A	Counseling / telehealth	Voice adoption	No count reported
Thu	3-06A	Addiction crisis	Voice adoption	No count reported
Thu	1-10	Apologetics / idolatry	Unanimous voice	No count reported
Thu	1-06A	Urban congregations / schools	Unanimous voice	No count reported
Thu	1-11A	God's design for family	Unanimous voice	No count reported
Thu	Martyrdom amend.	Delete Charlie Kirk paragraph	Failed	No numerical count
Thu	Martyrdom res.	Modern-day martyrdom	Adopted	79.04%
Thu	Visa schedule	Extend orders of day	Failed two-thirds	Resolution not considered

DOCUMENTATION

Sources and Verification Notes

Primary Official Sources

Source	Use in this guide
Election Candidates and Results	Official LCMS convention election register for president, vice-presidents, secretary, boards, commissions, and regents.
Today's Business, Issues 1-6	Official proposed, revised, amended, consent-calendar, election, and schedule material used during the convention.
Approved Convention Minutes and Proceedings	Controlling source for final wording, vote totals, rulings, and adopted action. Final Proceedings supersede interim summaries.
LCMS Reporter daily convention coverage	Official daily summaries for Sunday through Thursday, used to corroborate results, titles, and major developments.
2026 Convention Workbook	Reports, overtures, rationale, proposed bylaw language, and background.
2026 Nominee Biographies and Statements	Candidate categories, eligibility, biographies, and election procedures.
2023 LCMS Handbook	Constitution, Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, and constitutional order.

Session Reconstruction Sources

- Sunday Afternoon Session Analysis, July 19, 2026.
- Monday Afternoon Session Analysis, July 20, 2026.
- Tuesday Morning Session Analysis, July 21, 2026.
- Wednesday Morning and Wednesday Afternoon Session Analyses, July 22, 2026.
- Thursday Morning Final Session Analysis, July 23, 2026.
- Convention transcripts, used for chronology, debate, questions, oral amendments, rulings, and atmosphere.

Known Limitations Preserved Rather Than Hidden

- Voice votes often have no numerical count. The guide does not convert “voice” into “unanimous” unless the record does.
- Some election extracts did not include every winner in every category. The official election register remains the controlling complete list.
- The supplied Session 8 minutes and transcript conflict on Resolution 5-14. Final Proceedings should resolve the discrepancy.
- Approved Session 9 minutes were not included in the supplied file set when the final-session analysis was produced. The final Proceedings control permanent historical citation.
- Percentages marked with an asterisk were calculated from published final-ballot totals and rounded to two decimals.

Human-check reminder

Before quoting this guide in a permanent historical record, verify names, numbers, exact resolution titles, bylaw text, vote totals, costs, and final actions against the published 2026 Convention Proceedings.

CLOSING GOSPEL FRAME

Christ Is Risen Indeed

The convention elected leaders, changed Bylaws, assigned studies, adopted mission and mercy actions, and exposed real disagreements. Some decisions were wise. Some may require careful implementation, amendment, resistance, or repentance. None of them is the foundation of the Church.

The Church lives because Jesus Christ was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. He gathers His people by His Word, washes sinners in Holy Baptism, feeds His Church with His true body and blood, forgives sins, and sends His people into the harvest. The gates of hell do not fail because a convention found the perfect wording. They fail because Christ is risen.

“Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 15:57

A Prayer After Convention

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for us, preserve Your Church in the truth of Your Word. Forgive our pride, fear, anger, and hunger for control. Give wisdom to those who must implement these actions, courage to those who must speak, humility to those who lead, and patience to those who disagree. Protect the vulnerable, strengthen pastors and congregations, bless our schools and mission partners, and send Your people joyfully into the harvest. Let every structure serve Your Gospel, every study seek the truth, and every conversation remember the brother or sister for whom You died. Keep us steadfast, immovable, always abounding in Your work, knowing that in You our labor is not in vain. Amen.

CHRIST IS RISEN!

HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!