



CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED

LCMS 2026 Convention Afternoon Session Analysis

Session 6, Tuesday Afternoon, July 21, 2026

Official actions, elections, amendments, parliamentary rulings, ministry implications, and preparation for Wednesday

Prepared for delegates, pastors, district leaders, congregational leaders, and ministry partners

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A verified report using the official Session 6 minutes as the controlling action record and the complete afternoon transcript for chronology, debate, and atmosphere.

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■ Introduction and Source Boundary

This report reconstructs Session 6 of the 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, held Tuesday afternoon, July 21, 2026. The official convention minutes control final wording status, vote totals, election results, and parliamentary dispositions. The full transcript supplies recording timestamps, debate, questions, explanations from the chair, and the theological and relational atmosphere of the session.¹

Date correction

The source files cover Tuesday afternoon, July 21, 2026, not Monday afternoon. Because this is the session being analyzed, the forward-looking preparation concerns Wednesday, July 22, 2026.

The recording includes opening music before the formal office begins. Midday Prayer starts near recording timestamp 0:02, formal business begins near 0:24:37, the convention is placed in recess near 4:22:49, and the closing office and hymn continue to approximately 4:31:52.²

Controlling-source rule

When the transcript, an oral announcement, or a preliminary voice-vote impression differs from the official minutes, the minutes control. Discussion is not a decision, ballot placement is not election, and initial adoption is not final when reconsideration reopens the question.

■ Delegate Briefing

Tuesday afternoon combined international church fellowship, ethical and theological study assignments, digital-conduct guidance, seminary governance, a substantial block of board and regent elections, and one consequential piece of unfinished bylaw business.

The afternoon in five developments

1. Fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Christian Church of Bolivia was formally recognized.
2. The convention supported anticipated fellowship with Lutheran Mission Australia, but did not itself complete that recognition.
3. Resolutions on digital communication, Matthew 18, seminary adjunct faculty, and IVF were completed.
4. Numerous board, seminary, and university regent positions were filled.
5. Resolution 10-05A was reopened by reconsideration and remained pending at recess, despite an earlier 729-164 adoption.

■ What was officially completed

- Resolutions 5-01, 5-02, 5-10, 10-04A, 10-01A, 6-10, 6-14, and 5-11A were adopted.
- Thirty board and regent positions were filled during Session 6.
- The proposed six-speaker standing rule failed.
- The proposed amendments to Resolutions 10-04A, 6-10, and 5-11A failed to change the final adopted texts.

■ What remained unfinished

- Resolution 10-05A and the pending amendment to delete the “extenuating circumstances” exception.
- The second lay position on the Concordia University Nebraska Board of Regents.
- Additional university-regent and Commission on Worship elections scheduled for Wednesday.

Essential Wednesday correction

Do not report Resolution 10-05A as adopted. The 729-164 vote was superseded when the assembly adopted reconsideration, 526-362. The amendment and main resolution were pending when the orders of the day intervened.

■ Session Information

Item	Verified information
Session	Session 6, Tuesday afternoon
Date	Tuesday, July 21, 2026
Scheduled window	Approximately 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Phoenix local time
Recording span	Approximately 4 hours, 32 minutes
Formal business	Approximately 0:24:37 into the recording
Presiding officer	Primarily President Matthew C. Harrison; vice-presidents assumed the chair during elections and when the President spoke
Opening preacher	Rev. Dr. Dien A. Taylor, Atlantic District president
Opening text	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Major categories	Worship, minutes, Church Relations, Committee 5, international recognition, elections, Committee 10, Committee 6, further elections
Ending status	Recessed until Wednesday; Responsive Prayer and closing hymn followed

The official minutes identify President Harrison calling the convention back to order, President Taylor preaching in Midday Prayer, Monday minutes being adopted, and the queue system being updated with distinct parliamentary-inquiry and allowable-question buttons.³

■ Session at a Glance

Approx. time	Agenda item	Action or development	Result	Why it matters
0:02-0:24	Midday Prayer	Sermon on 1 Thess. 4:13-18	Worship completed	Framed business in resurrection hope
0:24	Minutes	Monday Sessions 3 and 4	Adopted by voice	Official prior-day record established
0:25-0:33	Concordia Historical Institute	"Treasure and trumpet" presentation	Report received	Institutional memory tied to confession and mission
0:33-0:57	Church Relations	Global fellowship presentation	Informational	Context for fellowship resolutions
0:58-1:05	Resolution 5-01	Bolivian church fellowship	Adopted by voice	Formal fellowship recognized
1:05-1:13	Resolution 5-02	Lutheran Mission Australia	Adopted by voice	Supports anticipated fellowship
1:13-1:15	Resolution 5-10	Organ-donation study	Adopted by voice	CTCR assignment
1:15-1:34	Resolution 5-11A	IVF debate begins	Referral failed; amendments pending	Ethical and pastoral questions exposed
1:35-1:42	International recognition	Church-body leaders recognized	Recognition only	Global relationships made visible
1:43-2:31	Elections I	CPH, LCEF, Foundation, CUS, CTSFW	Multiple elections	Major governance roles filled
2:35-2:52	Resolution 10-04A	Digital communication	Adopted without amendment	Guidance assignment
2:52-2:56	Resolution 10-01A	Matthew 18 study	Adopted 502-396	New CTCR report
2:56-3:19	Resolution 10-05A	District-president installation	Reconsidered; pending	Most important unfinished item
3:20-3:32	Resolution 6-10	Seminary adjunct faculty	Adopted without amendment	Bylaw clarification
3:31-3:33	Resolution 6-14	Decline overtures	Adopted	Formal disposition
3:33-3:46	Resolution 5-11A resumes	IVF amendments and main vote	Adopted without amendment	Study and pastoral care approved
3:47-4:22	Elections II	CSL, CUC, CUI, CUNE	Multiple elections	Regent leadership changed
4:22-4:32	Recess and Responsive Prayer	Isaiah 25:6-9, closing hymn	Recess until Wednesday	Returned session to resurrection promise

■ Full Chronological Session Narrative

■ Midday Prayer: grief with hope

President Taylor preached from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. He named real grief, sin, guilt, death, fractured discourse, technological distraction, and the devil, world, and sinful flesh. The Gospel center was Christ: Jesus obeyed, bore sin, entered the grave, rose victorious, and will return. Christians grieve, but not as those without hope, because the dead in Christ will rise.⁴

Theological frame

The convention did not begin with confidence in institutional competence. It began with Christ's death, resurrection, return, Baptism, Word, Sacrament, and the promise that believers will always be with the Lord.

■ Minutes and queue clarification

Monday's Sessions 3 and 4 minutes were adopted by voice vote. Delegates were told that the queue system now distinguished a privileged parliamentary inquiry from a nonprivileged allowable question, and that the queue would be preserved more reliably across secondary motions.⁵

■ Concordia Historical Institute

Rev. Dr. Daniel Harmelink urged the Synod to “treasure and trumpet” its history. CHI reported approximately 20,000 linear feet of historical material and about four million documents. The point was not antiquarian nostalgia, but humility: remembering Christ’s work prevents the Church from imagining she was built by her own cleverness.⁶

■ Church Relations and global fellowship

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Shaw presented the work of Church Relations. Archbishop Joseph Ochola Omolo of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya thanked the LCMS for confessional partnership and described his church’s withdrawal from the Lutheran World Federation. International leaders sang “I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives!” in several languages, joined by the convention in English.⁷

■ Resolution 5-01: fellowship with Bolivia

Resolution 5-01, “To Recognize Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with Evangelical Lutheran Christian Church of Bolivia,” was introduced without debate and adopted by voice vote. The Bolivian church’s president addressed the assembly, and the convention sang the doxology.⁸

Confirmed effect

This was completed recognition of altar and pulpit fellowship, not merely a recommendation for future dialogue.

■ Resolution 5-02: Lutheran Mission Australia

CTCR Executive Director Joel Lehenbauer explained that Lutheran Mission Australia had not yet held its constituting convention. LMA was expected to recognize fellowship, after which the Synod president could declare it under the Bylaws, subject to later convention ratification. Resolution 5-02 supported and encouraged that process and was adopted by voice vote.⁹

Important distinction

The convention supported anticipated fellowship. It did not itself declare the entire recognition process complete.

■ Resolution 5-10: organ donation

Resolution 5-10 directed the CTCR to prepare a report on theological and moral questions involving human organ donation and transplantation. It was adopted without debate by voice vote.¹⁰

■ Resolution 5-11A begins: IVF

The committee resolution condemned needless loss of human life associated with IVF, called couples to pastoral counsel, emphasized care for troubled consciences, affirmed the dignity of every person conceived through IVF, upheld procreation within marriage, and referred the broader issue to CTCR for further theological work.

A proposed amendment added language concerning donor gametes, the one-flesh union, biological parents, embryo freezing, and destruction. An amendment to the amendment proposed deleting the phrase about depriving children of their right to their biological mother and father. A motion to refer the whole matter failed. The orders of the day interrupted debate, leaving both amendments pending.¹¹

■ International church-body recognition

Leaders of sister and associate churches were recognized. This was ceremonial and relational. It did not itself create or modify fellowship status.¹²

■ First election block

The convention elected members to Concordia Publishing House, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, the LCMS Foundation, the Concordia University System Board, and the Concordia Theological Seminary Board of Regents. The transcript records procedural corrections about the 15 percent elimination rule, the number of LCEF lay seats, eligibility, term lengths, and the need to cancel and restart one LCEF ballot after an eligibility question arose.¹³

■ Resolution 10-04A: digital communications

Resolution 10-04A called the Synod to Eighth Commandment faithfulness, repentance from anonymous or pseudonymous attacks, forgiveness, charitable speech, personal conversation, and CTCR/Council of Presidents guidance for digital communication.

A proposed standing rule would have required six speakers on a main motion before an amendment could be offered, unless the queue was empty. The rule failed 365-494, short of the two-thirds needed to change the standing rules. An amendment changing “disagreements” to “conflicts” failed electronically 269-617 after a division from the voice vote. Resolution 10-04A was then adopted without amendment by voice vote.¹⁴

Pastoral caution

Peace language should restrain slander and reckless accusation, but it should not erase legitimate public correction, whistleblowing, doctrinal accountability, or proper ecclesiastical appeal.

■ **Resolution 10-01A: Matthew 18**

Resolution 10-01A directed the CTCR to study Matthew 18:15-20, public and private sin, prior CTCR work, and implications for ecclesiastical order and church polity. A speaker questioned whether another study was necessary. The resolution was adopted 502-396.¹⁵

■ **Resolution 10-05A: district-president installations**

Resolution 10-05A proposed requiring installation or reinstallation of a district president before the end of the convention at which the president is elected, with an exception for “extenuating circumstance(s).” A CCM-approved amendment proposed deleting the exception.

Debate on the amendment closed 689-208. The amendment failed 413-487. Debate on the main resolution closed 686-189. The resolution was initially adopted 729-164. A delegate on the prevailing side then moved reconsideration. Reconsideration was adopted 526-362, reopening the amendment and the main question.

President Harrison suggested keeping the exception but adding “as determined by the President.” The chair ruled the wording out of order because it lacked CCM approval. The orders of the day were called. Committee 10 was directed to continue later with the amendment and Resolution 10-05A pending.¹⁶

Official status at recess

The earlier 729-164 adoption was no longer final. Reconsideration restored the matter to the assembly. Resolution 10-05A and the amendment were pending.

■ **Resolution 6-10: seminary adjunct faculty**

Committee 6 returned with Resolution 6-10 and the amendments carried from the morning. The committee amendment deleted the proposed two-year membership requirement. The remaining amendment would have barred anyone who had resigned from or been removed from the roster from serving as seminary faculty or teaching in any manner. That restriction failed 209-650. Resolution 6-10 was adopted without amendment by voice vote.¹⁷

■ **Resolution 6-14: decline overtures**

Resolution 6-14 was read with Overture 6-74 removed from the list. Debate was closed, and the resolution was adopted by voice vote.¹⁸

■ **Resolution 5-11A resumes**

The convention resumed with the secondary amendment to delete the biological-parent-right wording. That amendment passed 522-357. The larger amendment, now modified, failed 363-542. Because the larger amendment failed, the successful secondary amendment had no effect on the final resolution. Resolution 5-11A was then adopted without amendment by voice vote.¹⁹

Parliamentary lesson

An amendment to an amendment changes only the amendment. When the larger amendment fails, the successful secondary amendment disappears with it and does not enter the main resolution.

■ Second election block and closing prayer

The assembly elected regents for Concordia Seminary, Concordia University Chicago, Concordia University Irvine, and part of the Concordia University Nebraska slate. The first Seward lay position was filled by Christopher P. Heins, but the second lay position was not reached before recess. Responsive Prayer used Isaiah 25:6-9, and the session closed with “The King of Love My Shepherd Is.”²⁰

■ Complete Official Action Ledger

Time	Item	Type	Mover/presenter	Question	Method	Result	Immediate effect
0:25	Monday minutes	Approval	Chair	Adopt Sessions 3 and 4 minutes	Voice	Adopted	Official record approved
1:01	5-01	Adoption	Committee 5	Recognize Bolivia fellowship	Voice	Adopted	Fellowship recognized
1:10	5-02	Adoption	Committee 5	Support LMA fellowship process	Voice	Adopted	Encouragement approved
1:14	5-10	Adoption	Committee 5	Request organ-donation report	Voice	Adopted	CTCR assignment
1:33	5-11A	Referral	Floor motion	Refer resolution and amendments	Voice	Failed	Debate retained
2:44	Standing rule	Close debate	Floor	End debate	Voice	Carried	Rule brought to vote
2:45	Standing rule	Rule change	Floor	Require six speakers before amendment	Electronic	Failed 365-494	Existing procedure retained
2:49	10-04A amendment	Close debate	Floor	End debate	Voice	Carried	Amendment vote reached
2:50	10-04A amendment	Amendment	Floor	Change disagreements to conflicts	Voice then division	Failed 269-617	Original wording retained
2:52	10-04A	Adoption	Committee 10	Adopt digital-communication resolution	Voice	Adopted	Guidance assignment
2:55	10-01A	Adoption	Committee 10	Request Matthew 18 study	Electronic	Adopted 502-396	CTCR assignment
3:02	10-05A amendment	Close debate	Floor	End amendment debate	Electronic	Carried 689-208	Amendment vote reached
3:03	10-05A amendment	Amendment	Floor	Delete exception phrase	Electronic	Failed 413-487	Exception remained temporarily
3:06	10-05A	Close debate	Floor	End main debate	Electronic	Carried 686-189	Main vote reached
3:07	10-05A	Adoption	Committee 10	Adopt bylaw amendment	Electronic	Initially adopted 729-164	Later reopened
3:14	10-05A	Reconsideration	Floor	Reconsider amendment	Electronic	Adopted 526-362	Question reopened
3:18	10-05A wording	Chair ruling	President/chair	Add presidential determination	Ruling	Out of order	No CCM approval
3:19	Orders of day	Procedure	Chair	Move to next scheduled business	Chair	Enforced	10-05A pending
3:26	6-10 secondary amendment	Amendment	Committee 6	Delete two-year clause	Voice	Adopted	Pending amendment narrowed
3:29	6-10 amendment	Amendment	Floor	Add roster-status restriction	Electronic	Failed 209-650	No restriction added
3:31	6-10	Adoption	Committee 6	Adopt adjunct-faculty bylaw	Voice	Adopted	Bylaw approved
3:32	6-14	Adoption	Committee 6	Decline overtures	Voice	Adopted	Listed overtures declined
3:43	5-11A secondary	Amendment	Floor	Delete parent-right wording	Electronic	Adopted 522-357	Modified amendment only
3:44	5-11A amendment	Amendment	Floor	Add stronger IVF language	Electronic	Failed 363-542	No final-text effect
3:45	5-11A	Adoption	Committee 5	Adopt IVF resolution	Voice	Adopted	Study and pastoral counsel approved
4:22	Session 6	Recess	Chair	Recess until Wednesday	Announcement	Recessed	Unfinished business carried forward

■ Voting Details

Question	Vote type	Method	Yes	No	Result
Six-speaker rule	Standing-rule change	Electronic	365	494	Failed
10-04A wording amendment	Amendment	Electronic division	269	617	Failed
10-01A	Main resolution	Electronic	502	396	Adopted
Close 10-05A amendment debate	Previous question	Electronic	689	208	Carried
Delete 10-05A exception	Amendment	Electronic	413	487	Failed initially
Close 10-05A debate	Previous question	Electronic	686	189	Carried
Initial 10-05A adoption	Main resolution	Electronic	729	164	Later reopened
Reconsider 10-05A	Reconsideration	Electronic	526	362	Adopted
6-10 roster restriction	Amendment	Electronic	209	650	Failed
5-11A secondary amendment	Amendment to amendment	Electronic	522	357	Adopted
5-11A larger amendment	Amendment	Electronic	363	542	Failed

Vote audit

This report identifies 82 completed voting events, including election ballots. Of these, 61 had exact numerical results and 21 were voice-vote or unanimous-consent decisions without totals. One LCEF ballot attempt was canceled and rerun, so it is not counted as a completed official result. No completed vote result is uncertain, but Resolution 10-05A remained pending.

■ Motion and Amendment Map

■ Resolution 10-04A

1. Main resolution introduced.
2. Six-speaker standing rule proposed.
3. Standing-rule debate closed.
4. Standing rule failed 365-494.
5. Amendment proposed to change “disagreements” to “conflicts.”
6. Voice vote declared failed; division requested.
7. Electronic vote confirmed failure 269-617.
8. Main debate closed.
9. Resolution adopted without amendment by voice vote.

■ Resolution 10-05A

1. Main bylaw amendment introduced.
2. CCM-approved amendment proposed to delete the exception.
3. Amendment debate closed 689-208.
4. Amendment failed 413-487.
5. Main debate closed 686-189.
6. Resolution initially adopted 729-164.
7. Motion to reconsider offered by a delegate on the prevailing side.
8. Reconsideration adopted 526-362.
9. Amendment and main question reopened.

10. Presidential wording proposed but ruled out of order for lack of CCM approval.
11. Orders of the day called.
12. Amendment and resolution left pending.

■ Resolution 6-10

1. Main resolution returned from referral.
2. Committee amendment removed the two-year membership clause.
3. Secondary amendment adopted by voice.
4. Remaining roster-status restriction failed 209-650.
5. Main resolution adopted without amendment by voice vote.

■ Resolution 5-11A

1. Main resolution introduced.
2. Larger amendment proposed.
3. Secondary amendment proposed to delete biological-parent-right wording.
4. Referral failed.
5. Orders interrupted debate.
6. Secondary amendment adopted 522-357.
7. Larger amendment failed 363-542.
8. Secondary amendment had no final-text effect.
9. Main resolution adopted without amendment.

■ Resolution Analysis

Resolution	Topic	Purpose	Strongest support	Strongest concern	Disposition	
['5-01', 'Bolivia fellowship', 'Formal altar and pulpit fellowship', 'Shared confession and mission', 'No floor concern stated', 'Adopted by voice']	['5-02', 'Lutheran Mission Australia', 'Support expected fellowship process', 'No theological obstacle identified', 'Constituting convention not yet held', 'Adopted by voice']	['5-10', 'Organ donation', 'CTCR theological-moral study', 'Pastoral clarity needed', 'Scope and timing unstated', 'Adopted by voice']	['5-11A', 'IVF', 'Life, marriage, conscience, pastoral care, CTCR study', 'Combines moral concern and care', 'Whether Synod should condemn more specifically now', 'Adopted without amendment']	['10-04A', 'Digital communication', 'Eighth Commandment guidance', 'Addresses slander and anonymous attacks', 'Could be read too broadly against disagreement', 'Adopted without amendment']	['10-01A', 'Matthew 18', 'Clarify public and private sin', 'Persistent confusion affects church life', 'Prior studies may already cover much', 'Adopted 502-396']	['10-05A', 'District installation', 'Request installation before ends', 'Connects e prayer, supervision', 'Undefined except authority', 'Pending']

■ Amendment Register

Motion	Amendment summary	Purpose	Vote	Effect on final text
10-04A	Change disagreements to conflicts	Permit disagreement while discouraging conflict	269-617, failed	No change
10-05A	Delete extenuating-circumstances exception	Make requirement firm	413-487 failed, then reopened	Pending
10-05A	Add “as determined by the President”	Name decision-maker	Ruled out of order	No effect
6-10	Delete two-year membership clause	Narrow restriction	Voice, adopted	Narrowed pending amendment
6-10	Bar resigned or removed rostered persons	Restrict teaching eligibility	209-650, failed	No effect
5-11A	Delete biological-parent-right phrase	Avoid unintended family implications	522-357, adopted	Changed amendment only
5-11A	Add stronger IVF condemnation	Strengthen immediate ethical statement	363-542, failed	No effect

■ Nominations and Elections

No new floor nomination was completed during Session 6. The afternoon was dominated by final elections from established slates. The official nominee publication provided the candidate backgrounds used for these elections.²¹

■ Election winners

Entity and category	Elected person	Final winning vote
CPH, Lay 1	Heidi K. Abegg	523
CPH, Lay 2	Thomas R. Halvorson	441
CPH, Lay 3	Mark Hemingway	467
CPH, Lay 4	William M. Thompson II	520
LCEF, Ordained/Commissioned	Michael L. Kumm	556
LCEF, Lay 1	Julie A. Johnson	617
LCEF, Lay 2	Gretchen A. Roberts	535
LCEF, Lay 3	Jonathan H. Kramer	548
LCMS Foundation, Ordained	Todd C. Riordan	630
LCMS Foundation, Lay	Mark O. Swenson	481
CUS Board, Ordained	Mark S. Nuckols	496
CTSFW Regents, Ordained 1	Korey D. Maas	505
CTSFW Regents, Ordained 2	David P. Ramirez	484
CTSFW Regents, Commissioned	Mark W. Meehl	626
CTSFW Regents, Lay	Christian A. Preus	486
CSL Regents, Ordained 1	Joel A. Brondos	463
CSL Regents, Ordained 2	Bruce E. Keseman	560
CSL Regents, Commissioned	Michael S. Staub	585
CSL Regents, Lay	Mark O. Stern	457
CUC Regents, Ordained	Lawrence R. Rast Jr.	576
CUC Regents, Commissioned	Nathanael Hahn	490
CUC Regents, Lay 1	Alicia K. Dietrich	444
CUC Regents, Lay 2	David Walz	487
CUI Regents, Ordained	Brian L. Kachelmeier	558
CUI Regents, Commissioned	Sarah E. Gaffney	449
CUI Regents, Lay 1	Laura G. Hemminger	473
CUI Regents, Lay 2	Brian T. Yamabe	509
CUNE Regents, Ordained	Scott T. Adle	527
CUNE Regents, Commissioned	Craig A. Ernstmeyer	442
CUNE Regents, Lay 1	Christopher P. Heins	426

Unfinished election business

The second CUNE lay-regent position was not reached. Additional regent and Commission on Worship elections remained for Wednesday.

■ Reports, Announcements, and Financial Information

■ Reports and recognitions

- Concordia Historical Institute called the Synod to preserve and proclaim its history.
- Church Relations presented worldwide confessional partnerships.

- Archbishop Omolo described the Kenyan church's decision to leave the Lutheran World Federation.
- International sister and associate church leaders were recognized.
- New and outgoing Synod Board of Directors members were recognized.

■ Financial information

No new quantified fundraising total, pledge, appropriation, matching grant, or expenditure was adopted. A speaker suggested that convention-time district-president installations could avoid later travel costs, but no amount or official fiscal estimate was supplied.

■ Administrative announcements

- Monday minutes were adopted.
- Queue controls were clarified.
- Delegates received alumni-dinner information.
- The convention was placed in recess until Wednesday.
- One Seward regent seat remained unfilled.

■ Procedural and Governance Significance

■ CCM review is not optional

The chair ruled President Harrison's proposed 10-05A wording out of order because it had not received Commission on Constitutional Matters approval. This was a procedural ruling, not a judgment on the wording's wisdom. The 2023 Handbook sets the constitutional and bylaw-amendment framework that gives CCM review practical force.²²

■ Reconsideration removed finality

A motion to reconsider, when adopted, restores the matter to the assembly in the parliamentary state specified by the motion. It is therefore inaccurate to present the earlier 729-164 result as the completed convention action.

■ Division controls over an unclear voice vote

The electronic division on the 10-04A wording amendment became the controlling numerical result after the voice vote was challenged.

■ An amendment to an amendment can vanish

The 522-357 vote changed only the pending IVF amendment. When the larger amendment failed, the successful secondary amendment had no effect on the main resolution.

■ Election procedure protects legitimacy

The canceled and restarted LCEF ballot, corrections about seat counts and term lengths, and eligibility clarifications show why election procedure must be exact. A technically smooth vote on the wrong slate is still the wrong vote, which is a sentence every parliamentarian keeps stitched on a decorative pillow.

■ What Officially Happened

■ Adopted or approved

- Monday Sessions 3 and 4 minutes.
- Resolutions 5-01, 5-02, 5-10, 10-04A, 10-01A, 6-10, 6-14, and 5-11A.
- Thirty board and regent elections.

■ Rejected or failed

- Referral of Resolution 5-11A.
- The six-speaker standing-rule proposal.
- The 10-04A wording amendment.
- The 6-10 roster-status restriction.

- The larger 5-11A amendment.

■ Referred or assigned

- Organ-donation study to CTCR.
- Digital-communications work to CTCR in consultation with the Council of Presidents.
- Matthew 18 study to CTCR.
- IVF study and theological clarification to CTCR.

■ Added to a ballot or nomination pool

None during this afternoon session.

■ Reports received

- Concordia Historical Institute.
- Church Relations and international church-body testimony.
- Recognition of international representatives.
- Recognition of Synod Board of Directors members.

■ Pending or unfinished

- Resolution 10-05A and its pending amendment.
- Second CUNE lay-regent position.
- Further regent and Commission on Worship elections.

■ Announced but not acted upon

- President Harrison's proposed 10-05A wording.
- Alumni-dinner information.
- Future fellowship steps for Lutheran Mission Australia beyond the adopted support resolution.

■ Immediate Ramifications

■ Confirmed immediate consequences

- Altar and pulpit fellowship with the Bolivian church was recognized.
- The convention supported the anticipated LMA fellowship process.
- CTCR received multiple sensitive study assignments.
- Resolution 6-10's seminary-adjunct-faculty bylaw was adopted.
- Resolution 5-11A's pastoral counsel and study assignment became Synod action.
- Thirty board and regent positions were filled.

■ Administrative and implementation consequences

- CTCR must plan work on organ donation, Matthew 18, digital communication, and IVF.
- The Council of Presidents must consult on the digital-communication statement.
- Seminary Boards of Regents and presidents must implement Resolution 6-10.
- Election staff must complete remaining elections.
- Committee 10 must return Resolution 10-05A in its pending state.

■ Consequences for Wednesday

- Election work resumes.
- Delegates need the current nominee slate and candidate corrections.
- Resolution 10-05A may return, but its exact return time was not established in the reviewed sources.
- The higher 15 percent consent-calendar removal threshold remains in force.

■ Consequences not yet known

- Final wording and disposition of Resolution 10-05A.
- Scope, timeline, and cost of CTCR assignments.
- Format and congregational usability of future reports.
- Whether persons elected to multiple positions must choose one.

■ Longer-Term Significance

Digital communication

Confirmed effect: CTCR and COP will prepare guidance.

Reasonable implication: the Synod may receive a clearer framework for online accusation, public correction, pseudonymity, and ecclesiastical process.

Open question: whether guidance will protect both reputations and necessary accountability.

Speculation to avoid: saying the resolution immediately bans online disagreement.

IVF

Confirmed effect: the Synod affirmed concern about loss of life and assigned further study.

Reasonable implication: a fuller doctrinal resolution may come to 2029.

Open question: treatment of embryo creation, storage, transfer, donor gametes, infertility care, adoption, repentance, and absolution.

Speculation to avoid: claiming the convention either approved IVF generally or condemned every possible medical use.

Seminary governance

Confirmed effect: Resolution 6-10 was adopted without the categorical roster restriction.

Reasonable implication: Boards of Regents retain substantial faculty-policy responsibility.

Open question: how particular former rostered workers will be evaluated.

Speculation to avoid: saying every former rostered worker is automatically eligible or ineligible.

District-president installations

Confirmed effect: none yet, because 10-05A remained pending.

Reasonable implication: final wording may clarify the Synod president's supervisory role and permissible exceptions.

Open question: who determines an exception.

Speculation to avoid: reporting the bylaw as finally amended.

■ Ministry Implications

■ Congregations and pastors

- Digital-conduct guidance will speak directly to how Christians discuss public controversy and neighbors online.
- Matthew 18 study may clarify when private conversation is required and when public correction is proper.
- IVF action calls pastors to care for infertile couples, families considering reproductive technologies, children conceived through IVF, and people burdened by previous decisions.
- International fellowship may open opportunities for prayer, theological exchange, and mission partnership.

■ District presidents and circuit visitors

- Resolution 10-05A directly concerns district-president installation and ecclesiastical supervision.
- Future Matthew 18 guidance may affect conflict advice and supervisory practice.
- Digital-communication resources may assist reconciliation and discipline.

■ Seminaries and universities

- Resolution 6-10 changes the framework for adjunct and temporary faculty.
- Newly elected regents assume responsibility for confessional identity, stewardship, governance, and mission.
- CTCR's IVF study will likely require theological, medical, ethical, and pastoral expertise.

■ International mission

The Bolivia and Australia actions show that church fellowship grows through patient doctrinal conversation, shared confession, and relationship, not through institutional diplomacy alone.

■ Kingdom over Castle Ministry Analysis

"Kingdom over Castle" is used here as a project ministry lens, not as an official LCMS convention category. The Harvest Partnership values emphasize the Spirit's Sending, Kingdom Focus, Open-Handed Generosity, Humility, and Trust.²³

Action or discussion	Partnership implication	Connection
Bolivia and Australia	Strengthens shared confession, worship, education, and mission across church bodies	Direct
Church Relations presentation	Locates unity in Word and Sacrament, then lives it through shared sacred things and mission	Direct
Digital communications	Can build trust and reduce destructive factionalism, but must not silence accountability	Direct with caution
Seminary adjunct faculty	Allows specialized expertise while retaining regent oversight	Reasonable but indirect
IVF study	May equip congregations to serve real families with truth and mercy	Reasonable but indirect
Elections	Potential depends on how those elected govern and serve	Uncertain until service is observed

Harvest lens

High accountability and low control require both charity and truth. Institutional peace that avoids necessary correction is not trust. Correction that destroys neighbors is not faithfulness.

■ What Delegates Should Be Thinking About

■ Questions about faithfulness

- Does the wording confess clearly what Scripture requires?
- Does it distinguish sin from tragedy, pastoral care from moral ambiguity, and forgiveness from avoidance?
- Does peace language preserve the duty to expose public error when necessary?
- Is a study assignment genuinely open, or does the rationale already dictate the result?

■ Questions about governance and procedure

- What exact question is pending?
- Has proposed bylaw wording received CCM approval?
- Is the assembly voting on an amendment, reconsideration, or the main question?
- Who has authority to determine an exception?
- Has a previous adoption been reopened?

■ Questions about mission and ministry

- Will international fellowship lead to prayer, education, witness, and shared work?
- Will CTCR reports reach congregations in usable form?
- Are Synod entities equipping local ministry or mainly enlarging process?
- How will elected leaders serve confession and mission together?

■ Questions about stewardship and implementation

- What staffing and financial burden do multiple studies create?
- How will priorities and deadlines be set?
- Who is accountable for distribution and use?
- Do election structures produce the expertise each board needs?

■ Questions about unity and life together

- Can the Synod disagree without treating disagreement as warfare?
- Can harmful speech be confronted without suppressing necessary truth?
- Can delegates interpret neighbors charitably while examining wording rigorously?
- Is reconciliation being sought through repentance, confession, and absolution, rather than only procedural quiet?

■ What Delegates Should Pray About

Fidelity to Christ

Lord Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, keep this convention under Your Word and guard Your Church from fear, pride, and faction.

Repentance and speech

Forgive slander, reckless accusation, anonymous cruelty, defensiveness, and institutional self-protection. Teach us to speak truth in love.

Infertility and family grief

Have mercy on couples, children, adoptive families, medical professionals, and pastors facing painful reproductive questions.

CTCR and the Council of Presidents

Grant wisdom, theological clarity, courage, fairness, and pastoral usefulness as they receive new assignments.

Newly elected leaders

Give board members and regents humility, competence, confessional faithfulness, and a servant heart.

International partners

Strengthen the churches in Bolivia, Australia, Kenya, and all mission settings in the one Gospel of Christ.

Unfinished business

Give clarity and patience when Resolution 10-05A and the remaining elections return.

Unity in the Gospel

Unite the Synod not through silence or slogans, but through Christ's Word, forgiveness, and the right administration of His Sacraments.

“And so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:17-18).

■ Preparing for Wednesday, July 22, 2026

■ Business carried forward

- Resolution 10-05A and its pending amendment.
- Second CUNE lay-regent position.
- Remaining regent elections.
- Commission on Worship elections.
- Any position-choice issue caused by election to more than one office.

■ Confirmed Wednesday agenda

The convention's published schedule included Morning Prayer, credentials and elections, the consent calendar, LWML and Lutheran Hour Ministries greetings, Finance, Structure and Administration, the convention essay and response, University Education, the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, further elections, International Mission, Mercy, Theology and Church Relations, and Responsive Prayer.²⁴

■ Documents to review

- The latest Today's Business and consent calendar.
- Updated election slate and candidate corrections.
- Resolution 10-05A and Bylaw 4.2.4.
- The CCM-approved amendment deleting the exception.
- Wednesday amendments to committee resolutions.

■ Practical preparation

- Bring and test the voting device.
- Mark remaining election pages.
- Confirm candidate and term corrections.
- Coordinate consent-calendar removals early because the threshold is now 15 percent.
- Keep the exact pending 10-05A wording available.
- Do not report 10-05A as adopted until reconsideration is completed.

■ Trends to watch

- The assembly often closes debate quickly.
- Delegates will request electronic verification when voice votes are unclear.
- CCM approval materially determines which bylaw wording can be considered.
- Floor amendments frequently fail while committee texts pass.
- Narrow wording concerns can generate substantial debate even when the broad purpose is widely shared.

■ Five-Part Closing Summary

■ Five most important official actions

1. Recognition of fellowship with the Bolivian church.
2. Support for anticipated fellowship with Lutheran Mission Australia.
3. Adoption of Resolution 10-04A on digital communications.
4. Adoption of Resolution 10-01A on Matthew 18.
5. Adoption of Resolution 5-11A on IVF without amendment.

■ Five most significant procedural moments

1. Failure of the six-speaker standing rule.
2. Electronic division on "disagreements" versus "conflicts."
3. Reconsideration of Resolution 10-05A.
4. CCM ruling against unapproved presidential wording.

5. Orders of the day leaving 10-05A pending.

■ Five most significant ministry implications

1. Expanded international fellowship and partnership.
2. New pastoral and theological resources on IVF.
3. New guidance expected for digital speech.
4. New clarity expected on Matthew 18.
5. Major leadership changes on seminaries and universities.

■ Five questions for Wednesday

1. When and how will 10-05A return?
2. What exception wording can receive CCM approval?
3. Which election positions remain?
4. Which consent items require separate debate?
5. Can delegates maintain charity while asking exact governance questions?

■ Five matters for prayer

1. Resurrection hope.
2. Wisdom and patience.
3. Truthful, charitable speech.
4. Couples and families affected by infertility.
5. Faithful service by elected leaders.

■ One-Page Wednesday Morning Briefing

Tuesday afternoon in one paragraph

Tuesday afternoon combined international fellowship, theological and governance resolutions, and a large number of elections. The convention recognized fellowship with the Bolivian church, supported anticipated fellowship with Lutheran Mission Australia, adopted CTCR assignments concerning organ donation, digital communication, Matthew 18, and IVF, adopted seminary adjunct-faculty bylaws, and elected numerous board and regent members. The major unresolved issue was Resolution 10-05A, which was initially adopted, reconsidered, and left pending.

■ Decisions and results

- 5-01, 5-02, 5-10, 10-04A, 10-01A, 6-10, 6-14, and 5-11A adopted.
- 10-01A adopted 502-396.
- IVF resolution adopted without the proposed stronger amendment.
- Thirty board and regent elections completed.

■ Unfinished business

- Resolution 10-05A and its amendment.
- Second Seward lay-regent seat.
- Remaining regent and Commission on Worship elections.

■ Voting and procedural notes

- Reconsideration can remove finality from a prior adoption.
- Bylaw wording needs CCM approval.
- A successful amendment to a later-failed amendment has no final effect.
- Electronic division controls over an unclear voice vote.
- Know whether the question is substantive, procedural, or electoral.

■ Why it matters

The afternoon affected international fellowship, Synod teaching resources, seminary governance, university leadership, ecclesiastical supervision, and pastoral guidance for difficult questions.

■ What to watch Wednesday

- Consent calendar.
- Updated election slate.
- Remaining university elections.
- Possible return of 10-05A.
- Committee 5 and other published amendments.

Prayer focus

Lord Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, guard Your Church in truth and love. Give delegates wisdom, patience, courage, humility, and joy. Preserve Your Church by Your Word and Sacraments, and use every decision to serve the proclamation of Your saving Gospel. Amen.

■ Verification Report

■ Verification completed

- The complete afternoon transcript was reviewed from opening worship through the closing hymn.
- The official Session 6 minutes were used as the controlling action record.
- Formal worship, business, recognition, and recess were distinguished.
- Every resolution formally considered was included.
- Amendments and amendments to amendments were attached to their main motions.
- Reconsideration of 10-05A was correctly reflected.
- Elections were distinguished from nominations and ballot corrections.
- Voice votes were distinguished from numerical votes.
- Reports and recognitions were separated from convention actions.
- No vote count was inferred from a percentage without an official denominator.

■ Items that could not be fully verified

Item	Verification need
Exact wall-clock opening and closing times	A time-stamped secretary's log; transcript gives recording time and the schedule gives the planned window.
Numerical totals for voice votes	Official tally records, if any.
Exact final wording of every resolution	Final Today's Business text and Convention Proceedings.
Complete overture list in Resolution 6-14	Final adopted resolution text.
Scheduled return time of Resolution 10-05A	A later order-of-business announcement or Today's Business issue.
Disposition of remaining elections	Wednesday minutes and election report.
Full Wednesday Issue 5 citation detail	The complete issue was not included in the available file set.

■ Full Footnotes and Sources

1. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, Session 6, Tuesday p.m., July 21, 2026, pp. 5-12.
2. Transcript 07/21/26 Afternoon, recording timestamps approximately 0:02-4:32. Unedited transcript supplied by the user. Source detail not provided.
3. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, Session 6, p. 5, lines 25-48.
4. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 5, lines 25-32; Transcript 07/21/26 Afternoon, approximately 0:02-0:24.
5. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 5, lines 33-38.

6. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 5, lines 39-48.
7. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 6, lines 1-13.
8. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 6, lines 14-20.
9. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 6, lines 21-28.
10. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 6, lines 29-31.
11. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 6, lines 32-44.
12. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 7, lines 1-4.
13. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, pp. 7-9; Transcript 07/21/26 Afternoon, approximately 1:43-2:31.
14. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 9, Committee 10 section before Res. 10-01A; Transcript 07/21/26 Afternoon, approximately 2:35-2:52.
15. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 9, immediately preceding Res. 10-05A; Transcript 07/21/26 Afternoon, approximately 2:52-2:56.
16. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, pp. 8-9, lines 28-39; Transcript 07/21/26 Afternoon, approximately 2:56-3:19.
17. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, pp. 9-10, lines 40-7.
18. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 10, lines 8-10.
19. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 10, lines 11-28; Transcript 07/21/26 Afternoon, approximately 3:33-3:46.
20. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, pp. 10-12.
21. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Biographical Synopses and Statements of Nominees, 2026, sections on CPH, LCEF, Foundation, CUS, and seminary and university Boards of Regents.
22. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Handbook: Constitution, Bylaws, and Articles of Incorporation, 2023, Bylaw 3.1 convention procedure and Bylaw 7.1 amendment provisions.
23. Harvest Partnership Values, project document, values and culture summary. Source detail not provided.
24. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Today's Business, Issue 5, Wednesday, July 22, 2026 schedule. Complete issue not provided in the current file set; schedule details were preserved in the verified session report. Source detail not provided.

■ Source hierarchy used

1. Official Session 6 minutes for actions, elections, numerical votes, and procedural dispositions.
2. The full afternoon transcript for chronology, debate, chair explanations, and atmosphere.
3. Today's Business and the 2023 Handbook for published wording, schedules, standing rules, and bylaw procedure.
4. Nominee biographies for election context.
5. The Harvest Partnership values for the clearly labeled ministry-analysis lens.

■ Final Gospel Frame

Tuesday afternoon contained joy, confusion, careful correction, hard ethical questions, global fellowship, leadership elections, and a heroic quantity of button pressing. None of those things preserves the Church.

Christ crucified and risen preserves His Church through His Word and Sacraments. Convention action is faithful when it serves that Gospel, guards the Church's confession, equips congregations, cares for wounded consciences, and sends Christ's people joyfully into the harvest.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

No convention vote saves or preserves the Church. The risen Lord does. Convention work should serve His Gospel, the Church's confession, and the sending of Christ's people into the harvest.