



CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED

# LCMS 2026 Convention Session Analysis

Session 5, Tuesday Morning, July 21, 2026

Official actions, elections, procedural developments, ministry implications, and delegate preparation

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

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Prepared July 22, 2026

A verified report using the official convention minutes as the controlling action record and the session transcript for chronology, debate, and atmosphere.

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## ■ Introduction and Source Boundary

This report reconstructs the complete Tuesday morning session of the 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The official minutes control final actions, vote totals, election results, and parliamentary dispositions. The transcript supplies the chronological flow, debate, explanations from the chair, and the atmosphere of the session.<sup>1</sup>

### Scope correction

The original assignment mixed references to Monday afternoon, Tuesday morning, and preparation for Tuesday. The attached transcript and minutes identify the analyzed session as Session 5, Tuesday morning, July 21, 2026. This report therefore prepares readers principally for Tuesday afternoon and the business carried into Wednesday.

The transcript begins with inactive recording time before formal worship. The formal morning session opened with Morning Prayer and concluded with a lunch recess rather than adjournment.<sup>2</sup>

### Controlling source rule

Where an oral statement, automated transcription, or apparent percentage conflicts with the official minutes, the minutes control the official result. Discussion remains discussion; nomination remains nomination; a person is called elected only where the official record declares the election.

## ■ How to use this report

- Delegates: begin with the Delegate Briefing, Session at a Glance, and Same-Day Briefing.
- Pastors and congregational leaders: focus on Ministry Implications, Immediate Ramifications, and Resolution 6-13.
- District and Synod leaders: review the Official Action Ledger, Governance Significance, and implementation assignments.
- Those tracking debate: use the Chronological Narrative, Motion Map, Amendment Register, and Voting Details.

## ■ Delegate Briefing

Tuesday morning combined worship, significant procedural changes, a large election block, and consequential action on misconduct accountability, dispute resolution, pastoral formation, seminary transparency, pastoral colloquy, church-worker recruitment, and pastor support.

### Five developments that matter most

1. Resolution 10-03A on sexual misconduct passed 852-64.
2. Resolution 6-12B placed pastoral colloquy procedures into the Bylaws.
3. Delegates required annual publication of seminary enrollment data, 561-337.
4. Resolution 6-11 on church-worker formation was adopted unanimously by voice vote.
5. Delegates changed queue and consent-calendar procedure, immediately demonstrating the practical effect by removing Resolution 10-05A for regular consideration.

## ■ What was completed

- The registration report was adopted, establishing 951 voting delegates.
- Ordinary information requests were lowered to normal queue priority, while parliamentary inquiries remained privileged.
- The threshold for removing an item from the consent calendar rose from 10 percent to 15 percent.
- Seven resolutions were adopted through the consent calendar.
- Fifteen persons were elected to mission boards, the CTCR, and Concordia Historical Institute.
- Resolutions 10-02A, 10-03A, 6-09A, 6-11, 6-12B, and 6-13 were adopted.

- A floor resolution requiring annual seminary enrollment publication was adopted.

### ■ What remained unfinished at lunch

- Resolution 6-10 on seminary adjunct faculty had been referred back to Committee 6 with two amendments attached.
- Resolution 10-05A on installation of district presidents had been removed from the consent calendar and awaited regular consideration.
- Additional elections and committee business remained for Tuesday afternoon.

#### Key takeaway

The morning showed a convention willing to strengthen accountability and transparency while still using referral, division, advance constitutional review, and ordinary parliamentary safeguards. The central unresolved question was not whether standards matter, but how standards can be clear, fair, and pastorally administered.

## ■ Session Information

| Item                | Verified information                                                                                |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Session             | Session 5, Tuesday morning                                                                          |
| Convention          | 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod                                       |
| Date                | Tuesday, July 21, 2026                                                                              |
| Scheduled beginning | 8:00 a.m.                                                                                           |
| Scheduled recess    | 12:00 noon                                                                                          |
| Recording length    | Approximately 4 hours, 7 minutes                                                                    |
| Presiding officer   | President Matthew C. Harrison, with other officers temporarily assuming the chair                   |
| Opening worship     | Office of Morning Prayer                                                                            |
| Preacher and text   | Rev. Dr. Nabil Nour, 1 Peter 1:3-9                                                                  |
| Major business      | Credentials, procedure, consent calendar, elections, essay, military chaplains, Committees 10 and 6 |
| Ending status       | Recessed for lunch, not adjourned                                                                   |

The published convention schedule placed Morning Prayer at 8:00 a.m., followed by credentials, Concordia Publishing House greetings, consent-calendar business, board and commission elections, the convention essay, military chaplains, Committee 10, Committee 6, and a noon recess.<sup>3</sup>

Vice-President Nour preached on the living hope given through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The minutes identify 1 Peter 1:3-9 as the sermon text and Chaplain Sean Daenzer as liturgist.<sup>4</sup>

#### Pastoral frame

The session later confronted sexual misconduct, conflict, expulsion, worker shortages, congregational strain, and institutional trust. Morning Prayer answered none of these with confidence in procedure alone. It placed the assembly under Christ crucified and risen, who gives a living hope through His Word, Baptism, Absolution, and the Supper.

## ■ Session at a Glance

| Time      | Agenda item        | Action or development                                   | Result                                | Why it matters                                                         |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0:09-0:38 | Morning Prayer     | Sermon on living hope through Christ's resurrection     | Completed                             | Theological frame for serious governance work                          |
| 0:43      | Credentials        | Registration report                                     | Voice adoption                        | Established 951 voting delegates                                       |
| 0:45-0:53 | CPH greeting       | Digital, multilingual, educational, and mercy resources | Received                              | Congregation-facing and global catechetical work                       |
| 0:54-0:56 | Queue procedure    | Ordinary questions lowered to normal priority           | 575-308                               | Preserved parliamentary inquiries but reduced privileged interruptions |
| 0:56-0:58 | Standing Rule 10   | Removal threshold changed to 15%                        | Voice adoption                        | Raised minority threshold for individual debate                        |
| 0:58-1:04 | Consent calendar   | 10-05A removed; seven items adopted                     | 237 requested removal; voice adoption | Preserved debate on district-president installation                    |
| 1:05-1:43 | Elections          | Mission boards, CTCR, CHI                               | 15 elected                            | Filled major governance and doctrinal roles                            |
| 1:44-2:16 | Convention essay   | Christ Conquers Death                                   | Received                              | Continued resurrection theme                                           |
| 2:17-2:40 | Military chaplains | Presentation and St. Martin of Tours Medal              | Received                              | Chaplain shortage and servicemember care                               |
| 2:41-2:51 | Res. 10-02A        | Dispute/expulsion task force                            | Voice adoption                        | Review of Bylaws 1.10 and 2.14                                         |
| 2:51-3:15 | Res. 10-03A        | Sexual-misconduct accountability and care               | 852-64                                | Major trust and transparency assignment                                |
| 3:16-3:18 | Res. 6-09A         | SMP supervision guidance                                | Voice adoption                        | Renewed Council of Presidents assignment                               |
| 3:18-3:29 | Res. 6-10          | Seminary adjunct faculty                                | Referred                              | Avoided hurried adoption of overbroad language                         |
| 3:29-3:43 | Res. 6-11          | Church-worker formation                                 | Unanimous voice                       | Whole-Church recruitment culture                                       |
| 3:44-3:51 | Floor resolution   | Annual seminary enrollment data                         | 561-337                               | Routine publication required                                           |
| 3:51-4:03 | Res. 6-12B         | Pastoral colloquy Bylaws                                | Voice adoption                        | Process gained bylaw status                                            |
| 4:03-4:07 | Res. 6-13          | Pastoral support and ministry models                    | Voice adoption                        | Worker care and partnership                                            |
| 4:07      | Orders             | Lunch recess                                            | Recessed                              | Session 5 concluded                                                    |

## ■ Full Chronological Session Narrative

### ■ Morning Prayer and resurrection hope

Morning Prayer centered on 1 Peter 1:3-9. Vice-President Nour proclaimed that Christ's resurrection gives believers a living hope, an imperishable inheritance, and confidence in trials. The sermon repeatedly connected resurrection hope to the means by which Christ gives Himself to His Church.<sup>5</sup>

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead.”

### ■ Registration and credentials

Committee 11 reported 951 voting delegates, 161 advisory delegates, 170 advisory representatives, and 173 special guests and others. The report was adopted without discussion by voice vote.<sup>6</sup>

The transcript suggests no audible opposition, but the official record does not label the vote unanimous. The accurate description is therefore “adopted by voice vote.”

### ■ Concordia Publishing House greeting

CPH President Jonathan Schultz reaffirmed the publishing house's mission and highlighted digital catechesis, multilingual resources, Lutheran educator formation, children's mercy resources, military ministry, and congregational access. The report cited nearly 39,000 Book of Concord website visitors from 150 countries, a Small Catechism site and app in 10 languages with plans for at least 25 more, and more than 600 congregations in the CPH Resource Center Program.<sup>7</sup>



**Mission significance**

This presentation was informational, not legislative. Its importance lies in releasing confessional resources into homes, schools, congregations, military settings, and international contexts rather than treating doctrinal resources as institutional shelf decorations.

**■ Queue procedure**

The parliamentarian explained that informational questions had been receiving elevated priority, but some delegates were using the feature for policy arguments and opinion questions. The assembly voted 575-308 to place ordinary information requests at the same priority as pro speeches, con speeches, and motions. Genuine parliamentary inquiries remained privileged.<sup>8</sup>

**Procedural clarification**

Delegates did not vote to ban questions. They voted to distinguish a parliamentary inquiry, such as “What motion is pending?”, from an ordinary information request, such as “How will this affect congregations?”

**■ Consent-calendar threshold**

A motion amended Standing Rule 10 so that 15 percent rather than 10 percent of voting delegates would be required to remove an item from the consent calendar. The amendment carried by voice vote.<sup>9</sup>

The change increased efficiency but also required a larger minority to secure individual consideration. With 951 registered voting delegates, 15 percent would be approximately 143 delegates if all were present and eligible to vote.

**■ Consent calendar and removal of Resolution 10-05A**

The consent calendar contained Resolutions 4-10, 5-03, 5-06A, 5-07, 5-13A, 9-01B, 10-05A, and 10-06. Resolution 9-01A was excluded because it had returned to committee.<sup>10</sup>

Delegates moved to remove Resolution 10-05A on installation of district presidents. The electronic result was 237 yes and 656 no. Because removal required only the threshold minority, 237 affirmative votes were sufficient. The resolution was removed for regular consideration; it was not rejected. The remaining seven resolutions were adopted together by voice vote.<sup>11</sup>

**■ Election block**

The assembly elected fifteen persons to the Boards for National and International Mission, the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, and Concordia Historical Institute. These were final elections from established slates, not floor nominations or additions to a ballot.<sup>12</sup>

**■ Convention essay: Christ Conquers Death**

Rev. Dr. Michael A. Thomas delivered the convention essay, with Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller responding. The minutes reserve the full essay and response for the Convention Proceedings.<sup>13</sup>

**■ Military chaplain presentation**

Rev. Craig Muehler presented the work of LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, introduced Army, Navy, and Air Force chaplain representatives, encouraged submission of servicemember contact information, described urgent requests for additional chaplains, and highlighted Operation Barnabas. Rear Admiral Gregory Todd received the St. Martin of Tours Medal.<sup>14</sup>

**Pastoral application**

Congregations received a practical next step: identify members serving in the armed forces and connect them with LCMS chaplains and Operation Barnabas. No appropriation or fundraising motion was before the assembly.

**■ Resolution 10-02A: dispute resolution and expulsion**

Resolution 10-02A created a task force to clarify the relationship between Bylaw 1.10 dispute resolution and Bylaw 2.14 expulsion. Debate raised the tension between clarity and efficiency on one hand, and due process and reconciliation on the other. The previous question carried by voice vote, and the resolution was adopted by voice vote.<sup>15</sup>

#### Caution

In proceedings that may remove a congregation or worker from Synod membership, “streamlining” must not become shorthand for weakening evidentiary protections, appeal rights, or reconciliation. Efficiency is useful; justice is not optional.

### ■ Resolution 10-03A: sexual misconduct accountability and spiritual care

Resolution 10-03A directed the creation of a task force on sexual misconduct by rostered workers and called for spiritual care for victims, accused persons, congregations, institutions, and others affected. As read, the resolution added consideration of completing investigations after resignation, maintaining a publicly accessible classification for workers who resign before credible accusations are resolved, and public reporting when a worker is removed after a substantiated allegation. By consent, “clergy” was changed to “rostered worker.”<sup>16</sup>

Closure of debate carried 609-300. The resolution as read was adopted 852-64. The vote showed unusually broad support for stronger accountability, transparency, training, and spiritual care.

#### Key distinction

The resolution did not itself create a final public registry or determine every evidentiary rule. It created an assignment to develop recommendations. Accusation, credible accusation, substantiated finding, resignation, and removal must remain carefully distinguished.

### ■ Resolution 6-09A: SMP supervision

Resolution 6-09A urged the Council of Presidents to complete and promulgate guidance previously assigned for mentoring and supervision of Specific Ministry Pastors. The resolution was adopted by voice vote.<sup>17</sup>

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

Resolution 6-10 sought to clarify appointment of adjunct and short-term seminary instructors. A published amendment proposed barring persons who had resigned from or been removed from the roster and persons without two years of communicant membership in the LCMS or a partner church. The committee proposed deleting the two-year requirement. Questions arose concerning former missionaries, partner-church theologians, retirees, and specialized instructors. The assembly referred the resolution and both amendments to Committee 6 for further review.<sup>18</sup>

The afternoon minutes later show that the narrowed restriction failed 209-650 and that the underlying resolution was adopted without the added restriction.<sup>19</sup>

#### Parliamentary lesson

Referral worked as intended. Delegates identified a potentially overbroad amendment, sent the matter back for review, and later adopted the underlying clarification without the contested restriction.

### ■ Resolution 6-11: church-worker formation and recruitment

After a Set Apart to Serve presentation, Resolution 6-11 called congregations, schools, families, pastors, commissioned workers, circuits, districts, universities, and seminaries to make church-worker formation part of ordinary ministry culture. Debate highlighted personal practices such as knowing the person, naming the gift, and finding the next yes. Closure carried by voice vote, and the resolution was adopted unanimously by voice vote.<sup>20</sup>

### ■ Floor resolution: annual seminary enrollment publication

A floor resolution directed the seminaries to publish annual enrollment numbers every fall. The motion to refer failed by voice vote. Closure carried by voice vote. After an unclear voice vote, an electronic division produced 561 yes and 337 no, and the resolution was adopted.<sup>21</sup>

#### Why this mattered

The assembly chose routine publication over information that was merely available upon request. Publication places the burden on institutions to make information visible, although enrollment data alone cannot determine the future supply of pastors or the wisdom of particular formation routes.

### ■ Resolution 6-12B: pastoral colloquy Bylaws

Resolution 6-12B moved the 2007 pastoral colloquy framework from a policy manual into the Bylaws. The text addressed public notice, objections, in-person colloquy, educational and theological criteria, knowledge of Synod history and polity, pastoral experience, moral character, remedial work, and the colloquy committee's discretion.<sup>22</sup>

A floor amendment to the bylaw language was ruled out of order because it lacked prior approval from the Commission on Constitutional Matters. Closure carried, and the resolution as read was adopted by voice vote.

#### Unresolved concern

The adopted language makes the governing process more visible and durable, but the morning debate did not identify a separate measurable rubric for broad criteria such as adequate theological preparation, positive pastoral experience, or sufficient knowledge of Synod history and polity.

### ■ Resolution 6-13: support for pastors and sustainable ministry models

Resolution 6-13 affirmed that those who preach the Gospel should ordinarily make their living from the Gospel. It also acknowledged settings in which one congregation cannot support a full-time pastor and encouraged multi-point parishes, cathedral and circuit-rider arrangements, district and circuit support, realistic expectations for bi-vocational pastors, and trained lay leadership. The resolution was adopted by voice vote, and the convention recessed for lunch.<sup>23</sup>

#### Pastoral note

The resolution resists two errors: expecting every small congregation to survive in isolation, and expecting full-time pastoral availability while providing part-time support. Shared ministry requires generosity, trust, and honest expectations.

## ■ Complete Official Action Ledger

| Time      | Item                         | Type                | Mover/presenter       | Question                                    | Method               | Result                      | Immediate effect                   |
|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 0:43      | Credentials report           | Adoption            | Committee 11          | Adopt registration report                   | Voice                | Adopted                     | Established attendance             |
| 0:55      | Information-request priority | Procedure           | Chair/parliamentarian | Lower ordinary questions to normal priority | Electronic           | 575-308                     | Queue changed                      |
| 0:57      | Standing Rule 10             | Amendment           | Floor motion          | Raise threshold to 15%                      | Voice                | Adopted                     | Rule changed immediately           |
| 1:00      | Res. 10-05A                  | Remove from consent | Floor motion          | Remove for regular consideration            | Electronic threshold | 237-656; removal successful | Returned to Committee 10 schedule  |
| 1:04      | Consent calendar             | Adoption            | Chair                 | Adopt seven remaining resolutions           | Voice                | Adopted                     | Seven resolutions became action    |
| 1:05-1:43 | Elections                    | Election            | Committee 11          | Elect board and commission members          | Electronic ballots   | 15 elected                  | Positions filled                   |
| 2:50      | Res. 10-02A                  | Close debate        | Floor                 | End debate                                  | Voice                | Adopted                     | Main vote reached                  |
| 2:51      | Res. 10-02A                  | Adoption            | Committee 10          | Create task force                           | Voice                | Adopted                     | Task force assignment              |
| 3:13      | Res. 10-03A                  | Close debate        | Chair at orders       | End debate                                  | Electronic           | 609-300                     | Main vote reached                  |
| 3:15      | Res. 10-03A                  | Adoption            | Committee 10          | Adopt as read                               | Electronic           | 852-64                      | Accountability and care assignment |
| 3:18      | Res. 6-09A                   | Adoption            | Committee 6           | Complete SMP supervision work               | Voice                | Adopted                     | Renewed COP direction              |
| 3:28      | Res. 6-10                    | Referral            | Floor motion          | Refer with amendments                       | Voice                | Adopted                     | Committee review                   |
| 3:42      | Res. 6-11                    | Close debate        | Floor                 | End debate                                  | Voice                | Adopted                     | Main vote reached                  |
| 3:43      | Res. 6-11                    | Adoption            | Committee 6           | Embed recruitment culture                   | Voice                | Unanimously adopted         | Synodwide encouragement            |
| 3:48      | Seminary data                | Referral            | Floor motion          | Refer to Committee 6                        | Voice                | Failed                      | Floor retained control             |
| 3:49      | Seminary data                | Close debate        | Floor                 | End debate                                  | Voice                | Adopted                     | Main vote reached                  |
| 3:51      | Seminary data                | Adoption            | Floor resolution      | Publish enrollment annually                 | Electronic division  | 561-337                     | Publication directed               |
| 4:03      | Res. 6-12B                   | Close debate        | Floor                 | End debate                                  | Voice                | Adopted                     | Main vote reached                  |
| 4:03      | Res. 6-12B                   | Adoption            | Committee 6           | Reinsert colloquy language                  | Voice                | Adopted                     | Bylaw status                       |
| 4:07      | Res. 6-13                    | Close debate        | Chair                 | End debate                                  | Voice                | Adopted                     | Main vote reached                  |
| 4:07      | Res. 6-13                    | Adoption            | Committee 6           | Affirm support and shared models            | Voice                | Adopted                     | Synodwide encouragement            |
| 4:07      | Session 5                    | Recess              | Chair                 | Recess for lunch                            | Announcement         | Recessed                    | Business continued in Session 6    |

## ■ Voting Details and Election Results

### ■ Recorded assembly votes

| Question                | Vote type         | Method              | Result            | Immediate consequence                            |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Queue-priority decision | Procedural        | Electronic          | 575-308           | Ordinary questions receive normal queue priority |
| Standing Rule 10        | Amendment         | Voice               | Adopted; no count | Consent removal threshold becomes 15%            |
| Remove 10-05A           | Threshold action  | Electronic          | 237 yes, 656 no   | Removed because yes exceeded threshold           |
| Consent calendar        | Main question     | Voice               | Adopted; no count | Seven resolutions adopted                        |
| 10-03A closure          | Previous question | Electronic          | 609-300           | Debate ended                                     |
| 10-03A main             | Substantive       | Electronic          | 852-64            | Resolution adopted                               |
| Seminary data referral  | Referral          | Voice               | Failed; no count  | Floor retained resolution                        |
| Seminary data closure   | Previous question | Voice               | Adopted; no count | Debate ended                                     |
| Seminary data main      | Substantive       | Electronic division | 561-337           | Resolution adopted                               |

### Threshold warning

The 237-656 vote on removing Resolution 10-05A was not a majority vote on the merits. The question was whether at least 15 percent wished to remove the item. The affirmative side met that threshold.

## Election register

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

The official minutes declare each person above elected. No new floor nomination, pool opening, or addition to a ballot occurred during Session 5.<sup>24</sup>

## Vote-count audit

- Total separately identifiable assembly and election votes: 42.
- Votes with exact numerical results: 27.
- Votes recorded by voice without a numerical total: 15.
- Votes with uncertain final disposition: 0.
- Abstentions or invalid ballots: generally not reported.

The total includes five early procedural or consent-calendar votes, twenty-two individual election ballots, and fifteen resolution, referral, closure, or recess-related votes. The count is a report audit, not an official convention statistic.

## ■ Motion and Amendment Map

### ■ Consent calendar

1. Main question: adopt the consent calendar.
2. Subsidiary action: remove Resolution 10-05A.
3. Threshold vote: 237 affirmative votes, sufficient under the 15 percent rule.
4. Effect: Resolution 10-05A returned to Committee 10's regular order.
5. Final action: remaining calendar adopted by voice vote.

### ■ Resolution 10-03A

1. Main motion: create a task force and spiritual-care framework.
2. As-read addition: consider continuing investigations after resignation, public designation, and public reporting.
3. Consent correction: "clergy" changed to "rostered worker."
4. Closure adopted 609-300.
5. Resolution as read adopted 852-64.

### ■ Resolution 6-10

1. Main motion: amend Bylaws regarding seminary adjunct faculty.
2. First amendment: add roster-status and two-year membership restrictions.
3. Amendment to amendment: strike the two-year membership restriction.
4. Referral of the main motion and both amendments adopted by voice vote.
5. Afternoon: amendment to amendment adopted, narrowed amendment failed 209-650, main resolution adopted without the restriction.

### ■ Seminary enrollment resolution

1. New resolution offered from the floor.
2. Chair allowed immediate consideration despite a timing concern.
3. Motion to refer failed by voice vote.
4. Previous question adopted by voice vote.
5. Initial voice vote unclear.
6. Electronic division adopted the resolution 561-337.

### ■ Resolution 6-12B

1. Main motion: reinsert 2007 colloquy language into the Bylaws.
2. Editorial insertion: add "subsequently."
3. Floor amendment proposed.
4. Chair ruled the amendment out of order for lack of prior CCM approval.
5. Previous question adopted.
6. Main motion adopted by voice vote.

## ■ Resolution Analysis

| Item             | Purpose                                             | Strongest support                               | Strongest concern                           | Disposition                                 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 10-02A           | Review dispute resolution and expulsion             | Clarity, timeliness, lower cost, reconciliation | Efficiency could weaken due process         | Adopted by voice                            |
| 10-03A           | Improve misconduct response, transparency, and care | Victim care, accountability, trust              | Need careful definitions and fair process   | Adopted 852-64                              |
| 6-09A            | Finish SMP supervision guidance                     | Faithful implementation and worker support      | Guidance must serve real contexts           | Adopted by voice                            |
| 6-10             | Clarify seminary adjunct appointment                | Flexible access to qualified specialists        | Added restriction was potentially overbroad | Referred; later adopted without restriction |
| 6-11             | Build worker-recruitment culture                    | Whole-Church participation                      | Requires implementation, funding, and care  | Unanimously adopted                         |
| Floor resolution | Publish seminary enrollment annually                | Transparency and planning                       | Data can be oversimplified                  | Adopted 561-337                             |
| 6-12B            | Move colloquy process into Bylaws                   | Visibility, stability, accountability           | Broad criteria remain discretionary         | Adopted by voice                            |
| 6-13             | Support pastors and shared ministry                 | Worker care and partnership                     | Must not normalize inadequate support       | Adopted by voice                            |

## ■ Resolution 10-03A: confirmed effect and open questions

### Confirmed effect

A task force must be appointed, and district presidents receive an immediate pastoral expectation to assess and provide spiritual care in alleged-misconduct cases, regardless of the accused person's current roster status.

### Reasonable implication

The Synod may develop a more visible and standardized approach to unresolved resignations, substantiated removals, reporting, and training.

### Open questions

What evidentiary threshold, appeal process, privacy protection, terminology, and public reporting format will be recommended? What can be implemented administratively, and what will require bylaw action?

## ■ Resolution 6-12B: strongest case and strongest concern

### Strongest case for adoption

Locating the colloquy process in the Bylaws makes it easier for applicants, supervisors, and the wider Church to find the governing standards. It also prevents substantial changes from being made solely through an internal policy manual.

### Strongest legitimate concern

Visibility of criteria is not the same as predictability of application. Terms such as adequate theological preparation, positive experience, and sufficient familiarity with Synod history and polity remain broad unless accompanied by published expectations or written explanations.

## ■ Resolution 6-13: ministry significance

The resolution recognizes the divine institution and dignity of the pastoral office while allowing human arrangements to vary. Multi-point parishes, circuit-rider patterns, cathedral models, shared staffing, and bi-vocational ministry are not identical, but each may serve faithful Word and Sacrament ministry when congregations act honestly and cooperatively.

## ■ Amendment Register

| Item             | Mover                            | Amendment                                                     | Purpose                                         | Vote                   | Result           | Effect                   |
|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Standing Rule 10 | Kyle Lewis                       | Change removal threshold from 10% to 15%                      | Save time and reduce lightly supported removals | Voice                  | Passed           | Rule changed immediately |
| 10-03A           | Committee, as read               | Continue investigations; public designation; public reporting | Accountability and transparency                 | Included in main vote  | Passed           | Added to adopted text    |
| 10-03A           | By consent                       | Change "clergy" to "rostered worker"                          | Include commissioned workers                    | Consent                | Passed           | Broadened terminology    |
| 6-10             | Published amendment              | Roster-status and two-year membership restriction             | Guard seminary teaching                         | Not reached in morning | Pending at lunch | Traveled with referral   |
| 6-10             | Committee amendment to amendment | Remove two-year membership clause                             | Narrow restriction                              | Not reached in morning | Pending at lunch | Traveled with referral   |
| 6-12B            | Floor amendment                  | Exact wording not preserved in minutes                        | Modify bylaw text                               | No merits debate       | Out of order     | No effect                |
| 6-12B            | As-read insertion                | Add "subsequently"                                            | Clarify sequence                                | Included in main vote  | Passed           | Became adopted text      |

### Advance-review rule

A proposed amendment to constitutional or bylaw language must receive prior CCM review. A carefully reasoned amendment can still be procedurally unusable if it arrives at the microphone without the required review.

## ■ Reports, Announcements, and Financial Information

### ■ Material reports received

- Concordia Publishing House: digital catechesis, multilingual resources, educator formation, children's mercy resources, military ministry, and congregational resource access.
- Convention essay: Christ's conquest of death, with the full essay and response reserved for the Proceedings.
- Military chaplaincy: chaplain recruitment, servicemember connections, veteran and family care, Operation Barnabas, and the St. Martin of Tours Medal.

### ■ Financial information

No material gift total, fundraising goal, matching grant, appropriation, or budget amendment was acted upon during the morning. Resolutions 6-11 and 6-13 carry financial implications for congregations, districts, students, and pastors, but neither established a uniform salary or appropriated corporate Synod funds.

### Stewardship observation

Recruitment without support is incomplete. The Church cannot loudly encourage young people to serve and then whisper when tuition, debt, compensation, family wellness, and continuing care enter the room.

## ■ Procedural and Governance Significance

### ■ Questions remain allowed

The 575-308 queue decision distinguished ordinary information requests from privileged parliamentary inquiries. The afternoon system was updated with separate controls for the two categories.<sup>25</sup>

### ■ Consent removal is not a majority vote

The Resolution 10-05A vote illustrates that the affirmative side needed only the designated minority threshold. A majority of delegates could prefer leaving the item on consent while the item was still removed because the minority threshold was met.

### ■ Bylaw amendments require advance CCM review



The standing rules require proposed amendments to constitutional or bylaw language to receive advance review from the Commission on Constitutional Matters. This controlled the chair's ruling on the attempted amendment to Resolution 6-12B.<sup>26</sup>

### ■ Bylaw amendments ordinarily require a majority

Under LCMS Bylaw 7.1.1, convention amendments to the Bylaws are adopted by a majority of delegates present and voting after the required reviews. The ordinary threshold is not two-thirds.<sup>27</sup>

### ■ Closing debate requires two-thirds

A motion for the previous question requires a two-thirds vote under the convention rules. This requirement protects the assembly's right to debate while allowing a sufficiently broad majority to move to a vote.<sup>28</sup>

## ■ What Officially Happened

### ■ Adopted or approved

- Registration report.
- Queue-priority change.
- Standing Rule 10 amendment raising the consent removal threshold to 15 percent.
- Seven consent-calendar resolutions.
- Resolutions 10-02A, 10-03A, 6-09A, 6-11, 6-12B, and 6-13.
- Floor resolution requiring annual seminary enrollment publication.

### ■ Rejected or failed

- Motion to refer the seminary enrollment resolution.
- No main resolution was rejected during the morning.
- The proposed 6-12B amendment was ruled out of order, not defeated on its merits.

### ■ Referred or assigned

- Resolution 6-10 and its pending amendments were referred to Committee 6.
- Resolution 10-02A assigned a dispute-resolution task force.
- Resolution 10-03A assigned a sexual-misconduct task force and pastoral-care responsibilities.
- Resolution 5-07, adopted through the consent calendar, referred terminology work to the Commission on Handbook.

### ■ Added to a ballot or nomination pool

None.

### ■ Reports received

- CPH greeting.
- Convention essay and response.
- Military chaplain presentation and medal recognition.

### ■ Pending at lunch

- Resolution 6-10 in Committee 6.
- Resolution 10-05A awaiting regular consideration.
- Additional elections and committee business.

## ■ Immediate and Longer-Term Ramifications

### ■ Confirmed immediate consequences

| Area                  | Confirmed consequence                                              |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sexual misconduct     | Task force appointment and spiritual-care expectations             |
| Seminary transparency | Annual publication of fall enrollment numbers                      |
| Pastoral colloquy     | Framework incorporated into the Bylaws                             |
| Worker recruitment    | Whole-Church encouragement and planning                            |
| SMP supervision       | Renewed direction to complete and distribute guidance              |
| Pastor support        | Formal encouragement of sustainable support and cooperative models |

## ■ Administrative responsibilities

| Entity                           | New or renewed responsibility                                           |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President of Synod and COP chair | Appoint sexual-misconduct task force                                    |
| District presidents              | Assess and provide spiritual care in alleged-misconduct situations      |
| Secretary and Synod Board chair  | Form dispute-resolution task force                                      |
| Council of Presidents            | Complete and distribute SMP supervision guidance                        |
| Seminaries                       | Publish annual enrollment data                                          |
| Commission on Handbook           | Incorporate adopted bylaw changes                                       |
| Congregations and schools        | Develop recruitment practices and encourage church vocations            |
| Districts and circuits           | Support recruitment, compensation, shared ministry, and SMP supervision |
| Circuit visitors                 | Keep worker formation and ministry cooperation before circuits          |

## ■ Longer-term analysis grid

| Matter             | Confirmed effect                      | Reasonable implication                            | Open question                        | Speculation to avoid                                |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Sexual misconduct  | Task force required                   | More public and standardized reporting may result | Definitions, appeals, privacy, costs | The resolution did not create an immediate registry |
| Dispute resolution | Bylaws 1.10 and 2.14 will be reviewed | 2029 proposals may simplify process               | Authority balance and due process    | Current procedures were not abolished               |
| Pastoral colloquy  | Framework gains bylaw status          | Process becomes easier to locate                  | Consistency of application           | The vote did not validate every past decision       |
| Seminary data      | Annual publication required           | Planning debates gain accessible data             | Categories and interpretation        | Enrollment alone does not equal future pastors      |
| Worker formation   | Synodwide recruitment emphasis        | More local identification and support             | Funding and follow-through           | A resolution cannot by itself reverse shortages     |

## ■ Ministry Implications

| Ministry setting       | Practical implication                                                                                                |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Congregations          | Recruitment planning, student support, pastoral compensation, shared ministry, military connections, misconduct care |
| Pastors                | Identify future workers, support SMP supervision, discuss compensation honestly, care for affected people            |
| Commissioned ministers | Included explicitly in misconduct accountability and worker recruitment                                              |
| Circuit visitors       | Recruitment, SMP supervision, shared arrangements, pastor support                                                    |
| District leadership    | Misconduct care, SMP supervision, recruitment, collaboration, compensation                                           |
| Seminaries             | Publish data, participate in recruitment, administer adjunct and colloquy processes                                  |
| Military ministry      | Connect servicemembers with chaplains and Operation Barnabas                                                         |
| Lutheran education     | Identify and encourage students, use church-vocation resources                                                       |
| Stewardship            | Align recruitment with tuition support, compensation, and worker wellness                                            |

## ■ “Kingdom over Castle” Ministry Analysis

“Kingdom over Castle” is used here as a project ministry lens, not as an official LCMS convention term. The lens asks whether structures serve the Gospel, equip congregations, build trust, and release resources for shared witness rather than protecting institutional territory.

The related Harvest Partnership values emphasize the Spirit's Sending, Kingdom Focus, Open-Handed Generosity, Humility, and Trust, including high accountability and low control within confessional relationships.<sup>29</sup>

| Action or discussion              | Connection              | Partnership implication                                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CPH multilingual and digital work | Direct                  | Releases confessional resources beyond institutional walls                  |
| Military chaplain partnerships    | Direct                  | Connects congregations, chaplains, servicemembers, veterans, and families   |
| Resolution 6-11                   | Direct                  | Distributes recruitment across the whole body rather than one office        |
| Resolution 6-13                   | Direct                  | Invites congregations to share pastors, resources, and responsibility       |
| Resolution 10-03A                 | Direct, with caution    | High accountability can rebuild trust when due process remains clear        |
| Resolution 10-02A                 | Reasonable but indirect | Clearer conflict systems may release energy for mission                     |
| Resolution 6-12B                  | Mixed and uncertain     | Visibility improves trust; broad discretion may still weaken predictability |

### Harvest lens

The strongest partnership movements of the morning were congregation-facing: worker recruitment, shared pastoral arrangements, military care, multilingual catechesis, and seminary transparency. The main caution is that accountability must remain relational and clear, not merely centralized.

## ■ What Delegates Should Be Thinking About

### ■ Questions about faithfulness

- Do accountability systems distinguish Law and Gospel without confusing forgiveness with the absence of consequences?
- Are colloquy standards grounded clearly in Scripture, the Confessions, and competencies actually required for pastoral ministry?
- Are human formation arrangements being treated as human arrangements rather than divine mandates?
- Does worker recruitment begin with Christ's gifts and calling rather than institutional panic?

### ■ Questions about governance and procedure

- What protections must remain non-negotiable in any revision of Bylaws 1.10 and 2.14?
- How will misconduct recommendations protect victims, congregations, accused persons, and fair process?
- Should “sole discretion” in colloquy decisions be paired with published standards or written explanations?
- Did the higher consent threshold preserve a workable minority right?
- Are bylaw amendments being drafted early enough for CCM review?

### ■ Questions about mission and ministry

- Who in each congregation is being personally encouraged toward church work?
- Which congregations could cooperate in multi-point, cathedral, circuit-rider, or shared-staff arrangements?
- How can congregations care for military members before deployment or relocation?
- Are small and rural congregations being treated as mission fields or simply as institutions expected to survive alone?

### ■ Questions about stewardship and implementation

- Will seminaries publish data in a consistent and understandable format?

- Will congregations and districts financially support the candidates they recruit?
- What resources will be necessary for misconduct training and spiritual care?
- How will completion of SMP supervision guidance be measured?

### ■ Questions about unity and life together

- Can the Synod name institutional failures without treating every leader as suspect?
- Can concerns about colloquy be heard without assigning motives to committee members?
- Can disagreement be processed under Christ rather than through factional scorekeeping?
- Can Matthew 18 be taught faithfully without being weaponized to silence public accountability?

## ■ What Delegates Should Pray About

### Fidelity to Christ

Lord Jesus Christ, keep the Synod rooted in Your death and resurrection, confident that the Church lives by Your Word and gifts rather than human strategy.

### Repentance and humility

Merciful Father, expose pride, defensiveness, secrecy, careless accusation, and institutional self-protection. Grant repentance and forgiveness through Christ.

### Victims and all affected by misconduct

God of mercy, protect the wounded, bring hidden sin into the light, grant truthful investigations, defend the falsely accused, and provide faithful pastoral care.

### Ecclesiastical supervisors

Grant district presidents wisdom, courage, patience, compassion, and clarity as they oversee workers and care for congregations.

### Pastors and congregations

Provide daily bread for pastors and their families. Give congregations generosity, realistic expectations, and willingness to cooperate.

### Future church workers

Send laborers into the harvest. Give pastors, parents, teachers, and congregations eyes to recognize gifts and courage to name them.

### Seminaries and students

Provide faithful teachers, students, donors, congregations, and clear public information. Preserve deep scriptural and confessional formation.

### Those elected

Grant the newly elected wisdom, humility, courage, and freedom from factional pressure.

**Convention procedure**

Grant the chair, parliamentarians, committees, and delegates patience and fairness. Let rules serve truth, justice, and good order.

**Unity in the Gospel**

Keep the Synod united not by avoidance or institutional loyalty, but by Christ's Gospel, His Word, and His Sacraments.

## ■ Preparation for Tuesday Afternoon and Wednesday

### ■ Business carried forward at lunch

- Resolution 10-05A, removed from the consent calendar.
- Resolution 6-10, referred with amendments attached.
- Additional Committee 10 and Committee 6 business.
- Remaining board, commission, and university regent elections.
- Committee 5 business.

### ■ Confirmed Tuesday afternoon agenda

The official schedule included Midday Prayer, review of minutes, Church Relations, Committee 5, international church-body recognition, additional elections, Committee 10, Committee 6, more elections, and Responsive Prayer.<sup>30</sup>

### ■ Documents delegates needed

- Today's Business Issues 1, 3, and 4.
- The Convention Workbook, especially the relevant Committee 6 overtures and reports.
- The 2023 Handbook.
- Nominee biographies.
- Published amendments carrying CCM approval.

### ■ Practical preparation

- Use the privileged queue option only for genuine parliamentary inquiries.
- Bring all daily issues of Today's Business.
- Prepare bylaw amendments in writing with advance CCM review.
- Know whether the vote is substantive, procedural, threshold-based, or a motion to close debate.
- Do not mistake removal from consent for rejection.

### ■ Trends to watch

- Demand for visible information: delegates distinguished routine publication from availability on request.
- Broad support for accountability: Resolution 10-03A passed by an overwhelming margin.
- Standards and flexibility together: colloquy, SMP supervision, adjunct teaching, and worker recruitment were all treated as related but distinct questions.
- Procedure matters: referral, division, threshold removal, CCM review, and floor resolutions materially shaped outcomes.

## ■ Five-Part Closing Summary

### ■ Five most important official actions

1. Adoption of Resolution 10-03A on sexual misconduct and spiritual care, 852-64.
2. Adoption of Resolution 6-12B placing pastoral colloquy procedures into the Bylaws.
3. Adoption of annual seminary enrollment reporting, 561-337.

4. Unanimous adoption of Resolution 6-11 on church-worker formation and recruitment.
5. Adoption of Resolution 10-02A creating a task force on dispute resolution and expulsion.

#### ■ Five most significant procedural moments

1. Ordinary information requests lost elevated queue priority.
2. The consent-calendar removal threshold rose to 15 percent.
3. Resolution 10-05A was successfully removed under the new threshold.
4. Resolution 6-10 was referred with amendments attached.
5. A proposed 6-12B bylaw amendment was ruled out of order for lack of CCM approval.

#### ■ Five most significant ministry implications

1. Stronger misconduct accountability and spiritual care.
2. Whole-Church responsibility for worker recruitment.
3. Greater transparency regarding seminary enrollment.
4. Renewed attention to sustainable pastoral compensation.
5. Greater visibility, but not necessarily greater objectivity, in pastoral colloquy.

#### ■ Five questions every delegate should carry

1. How can accountability be strengthened without weakening due process?
2. How can colloquy criteria become understandable before an applicant enters the process?
3. How will published enrollment data be defined and interpreted?
4. Will congregations financially support the workers they recruit?
5. Which neighboring ministries could cooperate rather than struggle alone?

#### ■ Five matters for prayer

1. Victims, accused persons, congregations, and supervisors in misconduct cases.
2. Future pastors, deaconesses, teachers, DCEs, and other church workers.
3. Faithful and fair implementation of colloquy standards.
4. Pastors and families under financial strain.
5. Unity in Christ during difficult convention debate.

### ■ Same-Day Delegate Briefing

#### Tuesday morning in one paragraph

Tuesday morning combined major elections, procedural changes, and substantial governance and pastoral action. Delegates changed the queue system, raised the consent-calendar removal threshold, elected fifteen board and commission members, created a task force to study dispute and expulsion procedures, overwhelmingly adopted a sexual-misconduct accountability and care resolution, pressed completion of SMP supervision guidance, unanimously supported Set Apart to Serve, required annual publication of seminary enrollment numbers, placed pastoral colloquy procedures into the Bylaws, and encouraged sustainable pastoral compensation and cooperative ministry models.

#### ■ Decisions and results

- 951 voting delegates registered.
- Ordinary informational questions receive normal rather than privileged queue priority.
- Consent-calendar removal now requires 15 percent.
- Resolution 10-05A was removed for regular consideration.
- Seven other consent-calendar resolutions were adopted.

- Fifteen persons were elected.
- Resolution 10-03A passed 852-64.
- Seminary enrollment reporting passed 561-337.
- Resolutions 10-02A, 6-09A, 6-11, 6-12B, and 6-13 were adopted.

### ■ Voting and procedural notes

- Removal from consent is a threshold vote, not a majority vote.
- Closing debate requires two-thirds.
- Bylaw amendments require advance CCM review.
- Ordinary LCMS bylaw amendments require a majority vote.
- An unclear voice vote may be followed by electronic division.

### ■ What to watch

- Returned wording on seminary adjunct faculty.
- Debate over installation of district presidents.
- Implementation details for misconduct transparency.
- Definitions used in seminary enrollment reports.
- Whether future colloquy proposals offer clearer standards.

#### Prayer focus

Pray that Christ's living hope would govern the convention, that truth would be spoken with love, that victims would receive care, that accused persons would receive justice, that pastors would receive support, and that the Lord of the harvest would send workers into His harvest.

## ■ Verification Report

### ■ Verification completed

- The entire morning transcript was reviewed from opening worship through lunch recess.
- The official minutes for Session 5 were reviewed and used as the controlling action record.
- Session 6 minutes were used only to verify same-day carried-forward outcomes.
- Every major agenda transition and identifiable main motion was included.
- Every amendment recorded in the minutes was accounted for.
- Nominations were distinguished from elections.
- Voice votes were included even where no count was reported.
- Procedural votes were distinguished from substantive votes.
- The consent-calendar threshold vote was distinguished from a majority vote.
- Transcript names were corrected only where the official minutes supplied the controlling spelling.
- Announcements were separated from official actions.

### ■ Items that could not be fully verified

| Unverified item                                         | What is known                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Exact clock time of lunch recess                        | The schedule and recording support approximately noon, but the minutes state only that the convention recessed for lunch. |
| Exact totals for voice votes                            | The official minutes generally do not provide counts.                                                                     |
| Abstentions and invalid votes                           | Generally not reported in the minutes.                                                                                    |
| Exact wording of the 6-12B amendment ruled out of order | The minutes record the ruling but do not reproduce the amendment.                                                         |
| Complete essay and sermon texts                         | The minutes state that they will appear in the Convention Proceedings.                                                    |
| Implementation costs for the task forces                | No cost was stated in the minutes or transcript.                                                                          |
| Future seminary reporting format                        | The convention directed publication but did not define every category.                                                    |
| Future objective colloquy measures                      | No separate measurable rubric was identified in the reviewed material.                                                    |

## ■ Full Footnotes and Sources

1. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, Session 5, Tuesday a.m., July 21, 2026, pp. 1-5.
2. Transcript 7/21/26 Morning Session, recording timestamps approximately 0:09-4:07. Unedited transcript provided by the user. Source detail not provided.
3. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Today's Business: Proposed Resolutions 2026, Issue 1, June 5, 2026, tentative schedule, pp. 5-6.
4. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 1, lines 3-8.
5. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 1; Transcript 7/21/26 Morning Session, approximately 0:09-0:38.
6. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 1, lines 9-20.
7. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 1, lines 21-38.
8. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 1, lines 39-46.
9. Transcript 7/21/26 Morning Session, approximately 0:56-0:58; LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 1, lines 45-46.
10. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 2, lines 1-9.
11. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 2, lines 10-14.
12. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, pp. 2-3.
13. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 4, lines 1-6.
14. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 4, lines 7-23.
15. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 4, lines 24-30.
16. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 4, lines 31-39.
17. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 4, lines 40-43.
18. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, pp. 4-5, ending p. 5, line 7.
19. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, Session 6, pp. 9-10.
20. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 5, lines 8-11.
21. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 5, lines 12-15.
22. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 5, lines 16-20; LCMS, Today's Business, Issue 4, pp. 378-380, as quoted in the official minutes and transcript.
23. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 5, lines 21-24.
24. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, pp. 2-3.
25. LCMS, 2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 5 and 6, p. 5, lines 33-38.
26. LCMS, Today's Business: Proposed Resolutions 2026, Issue 1, Convention Standing Rules, pp. 14-17.
27. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Handbook 2023, Bylaw 7.1.1.
28. LCMS, Today's Business: Proposed Resolutions 2026, Issue 1, Convention Standing Rules, rule governing closure of debate, pp. 14-17.
29. Harvest Partnership Values, values summary. Author and publication date not provided. Source detail not provided.
30. LCMS, Today's Business: Proposed Resolutions 2026, Issue 1, tentative schedule, p. 6.

## ■ Source hierarchy used



1. Official convention minutes for final actions, elections, numerical votes, and procedural dispositions.
2. Session transcript for chronology, debate, chair explanations, and atmosphere.
3. Today's Business for the schedule, standing rules, resolution language, and published amendments.
4. The 2023 Handbook for constitutional and bylaw procedure.
5. The Convention Workbook and project ministry lenses for context, clearly distinguished from adopted action.

## ■ Final Gospel Frame

The morning addressed serious matters because sin causes serious harm, institutions can fail, workers grow weary, congregations struggle, and human judgment remains fallible.

The Church's hope does not rest in cleaner spreadsheets, longer bylaws, stronger committees, or more efficient microphones. Christ crucified and risen preserves His Church through His Word and Sacraments. Convention work is therefore humbler and more hopeful: to order our common life so that Christ's Gospel is confessed clearly, wounded people are cared for, servants are supported, doctrine is guarded, and the baptized are sent joyfully into the harvest.

### **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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