


69TH REGULAR CONVENTION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

Wednesday Afternoon Session Analysis

Session 8, July 22, 2026

Preparation for Thursday, July 23

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South Lake Church | League City, Texas
2026 Convention Guide

Theme: Christ Is Risen Indeed
1 Corinthians 15:20-22

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Source and Scope Correction

The assignment template contained leftover references to Monday afternoon, Tuesday preparation, and a lunch recess. The uploaded sources actually cover **Session 8, Wednesday afternoon, July 22, 2026**, from the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed through Responsive Prayer and the close of business.

- The official Sessions 7 and 8 minutes control elections, vote totals, amendments, and final dispositions.
- The transcript supplies chronology, debate, questions, explanations, atmosphere, and recording timestamps.
- Thursday preparation is based on the convention material summarized in the generated report. The exact source detail for Today's Business Issue 6 was not provided in the current file set.¹⁸

Verification caution

The transcript records Resolution 5-14 being introduced and adopted by voice vote, but the supplied official Session 8 minutes omit that action. This report labels it transcript-recorded and requiring confirmation rather than silently choosing one source.

1. Session Information

Item	Information
Session	Session 8, Wednesday afternoon
Convention day	Fifth convention day
Date	Wednesday, July 22, 2026
Scheduled beginning	1:30 p.m., Phoenix local time
Commemoration begins	Approximately recording timestamp 0:01
Formal business begins	Approximately 0:35
Business concludes	Approximately 4:21
Responsive Prayer concludes	Approximately 4:28
Approximate duration	Four hours, twenty-eight minutes
Presiding officers	President Matthew C. Harrison and Rev. Dr. Michael T. Von Behren, with temporary chair transitions
Opening preacher	Rev. Dr. Michael E. Gibson, Pacific Southwest District president
Opening Scripture	Romans 6:3-11
Major agenda categories	Faithful Departed, minutes, elections, Theology and Church Relations, University Education, International Mission, Mercy, ecclesiastical supervision, officer recognition
Formal ending	Business adjourned until Thursday after devotion, followed by Responsive Prayer
Confirmed carryover	Ratification of the amendment to Bylaw 4.2.4, later published as Resolution 10-08

The official minutes identify the afternoon as Session 8 and record the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, approval of Tuesday's minutes, the completion of elections, the resolution actions, the international mission presentation, and Responsive Prayer.¹

2. Delegate Briefing

Wednesday afternoon completed nearly all remaining elections and disposed of several of the convention's most sensitive theological, university, worship, and mercy resolutions.

The session began with the Church remembering the faithful departed. President Gibson preached from Romans 6 that Baptism unites Christians to Christ's death and resurrection. His repeated assurance was that the baptized have been joined to Christ's death, the old sinful self has been crucified with Him, and Christ raised from the dead will never die again.²

Ten consequential developments

Resolution 5-15 and the AALC

Adopted as twice amended, 813-87. The final text included "reconciliatory dialogue" and a call to "work in good faith."

Lutheran identity at the Concordias

Resolution 7-07A passed 773-143. The CUS Board of Directors remained the lead entity, consulting with CTCR.

CUS governance study

Resolution 7-08A passed 850-53, directing a study of corporate versus commission status for 2029.

Concordia Ann Arbor

Resolution 7-09A passed 818-91. The assembly acknowledged grief, gave thanks, and encouraged church-work programs.

Closed Communion

Resolution 5-05 passed 787-114 without substantive amendment, reaffirming doctrine, catechesis, supervision, charity, and pastoral discretion.

Public reading of Scripture

Resolution 5-09A passed 607-296. A narrow 453-436 amendment required study materials for Synodwide theological conversations.

Life ministry

Resolution 3-01A passed 779-68 after expanding the scope to faith-based nonprofits.

District-president installations

The assembly added "as determined by the Synod President" to Bylaw 4.2.4, but the action required Thursday ratification.

Men and women in the Church

Resolution 5-08A passed 742-138.

Adoption and fostering

Resolution 3-02A passed by voice vote without the proposed digital-resource amendment.

What remained for Thursday

The confirmed carryover was the ratification action later printed as Resolution 10-08. Delegates also needed to determine which Thursday schedule the chair formally established and which remaining consent, Mercy, National Witness, or unfinished items could be reached before adjournment.

3. Session at a Glance

Time	Agenda item	Action or development	Result	Why it matters
0:01-0:35	Faithful Departed	Romans 6 sermon, remembrance, hymns	Worship completed	Framed death through Baptism and resurrection
0:35	Faithful Departed display	Atlantic District section questioned	Follow-up promised	Ensured departed members were remembered
0:36	Minutes	Tuesday Sessions 5 and 6	Approved by consent	Established official record
0:36-1:21	Elections	Regents and Commission on Worship	Sixteen persons elected	Completed convention election work
1:22	Announcement	Missing person Evelyn found	Thanksgiving offered	Pastoral human moment
1:23-1:31	5-15	AALC fellowship concerns	Adopted 813-87	Reconciliation and accountability
1:34-1:48	7-07A	Lutheran identity	Adopted 773-143	Assigned identity clarification
1:48-1:53	7-08A	CUS status study	Adopted 850-53	Opened governance review
1:54-2:13	7-09A	Concordia Ann Arbor	Adopted 818-91	Thanksgiving, grief, hope
2:14-2:33	5-05	Closed Communion	Adopted 787-114	Reaffirmed doctrine and discretion
2:33-2:58	5-09A	Public Scripture reading	Adopted 607-296	Study and Synodwide conversation
2:59-3:04	Officer recognition	Incoming and outgoing officers	Recognition only	Marked leadership transition
3:04-3:22	International Mission	Brazil disaster response	Presentation received	Mercy partnership and preparedness
3:23-3:43	3-01A	Life ministry	Adopted 779-68	Expanded collaboration
3:43-3:52	Committee 10	Bylaw 4.2.4 and 10-07	Voice votes	Created ratification requirement
3:53-3:58	5-08A	Men and women in Church	Adopted 742-138	Reaffirmed Synod teaching
3:58-4:00	5-14	Decline overtures	Transcript says adopted	Supplied minutes omit action
4:01-4:07	Reconsider 3-01A	Reopen scope amendment	Failed by voice	Adopted wording remained
4:07-4:18	3-02A	Adoption and fostering	Adopted by voice	Encouraged Christian care
4:21-4:28	Responsive Prayer	Job 19 and closing hymn	Session concluded	Returned to resurrection hope

■ 4. Full Chronological Session Narrative

A. Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

President Gibson preached from Romans 6:3-11 and connected the convention theme with the baptized lives of church workers, laypeople, parents, mentors, and loved ones who died in the faith.

Baptism was described as the Christian's touchstone. The believer does not search inward for proof of salvation but returns to God's external promise: *I have been baptized*. The old Adam is judged and drowned, the new person rises through repentance and faith, and Christ's resurrection gives the present life its direction and eternal future.²

A delegate later noted that the Atlantic District memorial portion had not appeared on the central screen. The chair investigated and promised to attempt to show it Thursday.

B. Approval of Tuesday's Minutes

Rev. Dr. Michael Von Behren took the chair. No substantive correction was offered, and the minutes of Tuesday's Sessions 5 and 6 were approved by consent.¹

C. Completion of Elections

Committee 11 resumed the remaining Concordia university regent and Commission on Worship elections. The majority requirement and 15 percent elimination rule governed the ballots. No nomination pool was reopened and no candidate was newly added from the floor.³

Before the Concordia Texas ballots, a delegate asked how elected regents would function amid ongoing litigation. The Secretary explained that the convention should elect persons in case they could later be seated, while acknowledging that the regents elected by the previous convention had not been seated. Election therefore did not guarantee seating.⁴

After the Commission on Worship ballots, Committee 11 announced that all convention elections were complete.

D. Evelyn Found

The assembly had previously prayed for Evelyn, who was missing near her home. It was announced that she had been found, and the convention responded, "Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God."

E. Resolution 5-15, the AALC

The convention resumed unfinished morning business. The pending amendment inserted "to work in good faith" before "to rectify the situation." After debate closure and electronic confirmation, the amendment passed 574-310.⁵

Questions concerned when pastors and congregations would be placed on the Secretary's information list, whether the committee had responded to AALC videos, and whether public convention action would aid reconciliation. The committee said the list concerned those applying for or already received into the AALC while unresolved LCMS matters remained.

After the twenty-minute debate period, Resolution 5-15 was adopted as twice amended, 813-87. The action called for good-faith rectification, reconciliatory dialogue, administrative tracking, continued work, and later reporting. It did not sever fellowship.

F. Resolution 7-07A, Lutheran Identity

The resolution directed the CUS Board of Directors, in consultation with CTCR, to define and clarify Lutheran identity, ground it in Scripture and the Confessions, continue developing outcome standards, and report to regents and the 2029 convention.⁶

An amendment sought to make CTCR the lead entity. Supporters emphasized theological expertise. Opponents argued that university identity is both theological and institutional and that CUS must lead implementation. The amendment failed by voice vote.

Debate then focused on whether identity standards protect confession or risk superficial, culturally narrow markers. The resolution passed 773-143.

G. Resolution 7-08A, CUS Corporate Status

The resolution directed the Synod Board of Directors and CUS Board of Directors, consulting the Institution Advisory Council, to compare retaining CUS as a Synodwide corporation with converting it into a commission. The convention commissioned study, not restructuring. It passed 850-53.⁶

H. Resolution 7-09A, Concordia Ann Arbor

The resolution gave thanks for CUAA's ministry since 1963, acknowledged grief over program reductions, commended past and present leaders, encouraged church-work programs, and affirmed support for the Concordia universities.⁷

An amendment to remove "and present" from the commendation of leadership failed 186-708. Supporters of the amendment wanted to await a fuller review. Opponents emphasized that the campus remained open and that present leaders still served.

The main resolution passed 818-91. The assembly sang the doxology, and President Harrison prayed for forgiveness, mercy, healing, renewed ministry at Ann Arbor, and blessing upon the involved institutions and districts.

I. Resolution 5-05, Closed Communion

The resolution reaffirmed the Synod's doctrine and practice of closed Communion, pastoral responsibility, catechesis, charity among pastors, ecclesiastical supervision, and the reality of pastoral discretion in extraordinary circumstances.⁸

President Harrison distinguished pastoral discretion from merely printing a bulletin statement and leaving the visitor to decide whether to commune.

A secondary amendment adding "must" failed 414-437. The primary amendment replacing the pastoral-catechetical wording with constitutional language failed 377-506. The main resolution passed 787-114 without substantive amendment.

J. Resolution 5-09A, Public Reading of Scripture

The committee said the hearing revealed deep disagreement and confusion. The resolution commissioned a joint seminary opinion, COP evaluation, CTCR input, discussion by 2028, and a report six months before the next convention.⁹

An amendment requiring recommendations for convention action failed by voice vote. A second amendment requiring study materials for Synodwide theological gatherings passed narrowly, 453-436. A third amendment deleting the study mechanism failed by voice vote after automatic closure.

The main resolution passed 607-296. It did not ban women or laypeople from reading Scripture, reverse prior action, or settle the doctrine. It commissioned study, discussion, evaluation, materials, and reporting.

K. New and Outgoing Officers

President Harrison recognized the Secretary and vice-presidents elected for the next triennium and thanked outgoing Vice-Presidents Scott R. Murray and John C. Wohlrabe Jr. This was recognition of previously completed elections, not a new election.¹⁰

L. International Mission and Brazil Disaster Response

Rev. Airton Schroeder of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil described how LCMS disaster-response training helped his church prepare for catastrophic flooding. The report included an earlier \$150,000 grant, training conferences, translated resources, more than 200 conference participants, and the 2024 impact on approximately 420,000 homes and 2.4 million people.¹⁷

The official minutes emphasized that training, publications, practical aid, and the assurance that the Brazilian church was not alone were central to the partnership.¹⁰

M. Resolution 3-01A, Life Ministry

The Life Match presentation reported 181 projects since 2022, an estimated 656,000 people served, more than 9,000 volunteers, and 78 babies born to clients choosing life through the featured ministry.¹⁶

An amendment broadening the scope from RSOs to “RSOs and faith-based nonprofits” passed 502-317. A government-aid amendment failed by voice vote. The main resolution passed 779-68 as once amended.¹¹

N. Committee 10 and Bylaw 4.2.4

Committee 10 added “as determined by the Synod President” after “extenuating circumstance(s).” The amendment passed by voice vote. The Secretary and parliamentarian determined that ratification would be required in Session 9. Resolution 10-07 declining overtures then passed by voice vote.¹²

O. Resolution 5-08A, Men and Women in the Church

The resolution reaffirmed the Synod's opposition to women's ordination, encouraged men's God-pleasing leadership, encouraged women's faithful use of gifts, and commended women serving in commissioned, lay, volunteer, mercy, witness, leadership, and support vocations. It passed 742-138.¹³

P. Resolution 5-14 Source Conflict

The transcript records Committee 5 introducing Resolution 5-14 and the chair declaring it adopted by voice vote. The supplied official Session 8 minutes omit the action. Final official status therefore requires the corrected minutes, Resolution Action Report, or Proceedings.¹⁵

Q. Reconsideration of Resolution 3-01A

A prevailing-side voter moved reconsideration because he believed “faith-based nonprofits” was too broad. Opponents argued that the wording authorized advice and resources, not doctrinal endorsement or control. Reconsideration failed by voice vote, leaving 3-01A adopted as amended.¹³

R. Resolution 3-02A, Adoption and Fostering

The resolution connected Christian adoption and fostering with baptismal identity and care for children. A proposed digital state-by-state resource for adoption agencies and RSOs failed by division, 301-543. The main resolution passed without amendment by voice vote.¹⁴

S. Announcements and End of Business

Delegates received reception and luggage instructions. The chair announced that the convention was adjourned until Thursday after devotion.

T. Responsive Prayer

Chaplain Daenzer led Responsive Prayer with Job 19:25-27 and the assembly sang “I Know That My Redeemer Lives.” Prayers were offered for the sick, injured, bereaved, a newborn child, the nations, pardon, peace, and faithful service.¹⁹

5. Complete Official Action Ledger

The ledger below records the identifiable official actions. Election ballots are summarized separately in Section 10 to preserve readability.

Time	Item	Action	Method	Result	Immediate effect
0:35	Tuesday minutes	Approve Sessions 5 and 6	Consent	Approved	Official record accepted
1:27	5-15 amendment	Add "to work in good faith"	Electronic	574-310, adopted	Added to final text
1:31	5-15	Adopt as twice amended	Electronic	813-87, adopted	AALC action approved
1:40	7-07A amendment	Make CTCR lead entity	Voice	Failed	CUS BOD remained lead
1:48	7-07A	Adopt resolution	Electronic	773-143, adopted	Identity work assigned
1:53	7-08A	Study CUS corporate status	Electronic	850-53, adopted	Governance study assigned
2:09	7-09A amendment	Delete "and present"	Electronic	186-708, failed	Text unchanged
2:10	7-09A	Adopt resolution	Electronic	818-91, adopted	Thanksgiving and support approved
2:25	5-05 secondary amendment	Add "must"	Electronic	414-437, failed	No change
2:28	5-05 primary amendment	Replace pastoral wording	Electronic	377-506, failed	Original wording remained
2:33	5-05	Adopt resolution	Electronic	787-114, adopted	Closed Communion action approved
2:42	5-09A amendment 1	Require action recommendations	Voice	Failed	No change
2:52	5-09A amendment 2	Create Synodwide study materials	Electronic	453-436, adopted	Added to final text
2:57	5-09A amendment 3	Strike study mechanism	Voice	Failed	Study retained
2:58	5-09A	Adopt as amended	Electronic	607-296, adopted	Study and materials assigned
3:36	3-01A amendment 1	Add faith-based nonprofits	Electronic	502-317, adopted	Scope broadened
3:39	3-01A amendment 2	Add government-aid language	Voice	Failed	No change
3:43	3-01A	Adopt as amended	Electronic	779-68, adopted	Life ministry action approved
3:50	Bylaw 4.2.4	Add Synod-president determination	Voice	Adopted provisionally	Ratification required
3:52	10-07	Decline overtures	Voice	Adopted	Overtures disposed
3:58	5-08A	Adopt resolution	Electronic	742-138, adopted	Teaching reaffirmed
4:00	5-14	Decline overtures	Voice	Transcript says adopted	Official status uncertain
4:06	Reconsider 3-01A	Reopen resolution	Voice	Failed	Resolution remained adopted
4:18	3-02A amendment	Add digital resource	Electronic division	301-543, failed	No resource mandate
4:18	3-02A	Adopt resolution	Voice	Adopted	Adoption and fostering action approved
4:21	Session	Adjourn until Thursday	Chair announcement	Adjourned	Session business ended

6. Voting Details

Question	Yes	No	Result
5-15 "good faith" amendment	574	310	Adopted
Resolution 5-15	813	87	Adopted
Resolution 7-07A	773	143	Adopted
Resolution 7-08A	850	53	Adopted
7-09A "and present" amendment	186	708	Failed
Resolution 7-09A	818	91	Adopted
5-05 amendment to amendment	414	437	Failed
5-05 primary amendment	377	506	Failed
Resolution 5-05	787	114	Adopted
5-09A study-materials amendment	453	436	Adopted
Resolution 5-09A	607	296	Adopted
3-01A faith-based nonprofit amendment	502	317	Adopted
Resolution 3-01A	779	68	Adopted
Resolution 5-08A	742	138	Adopted
3-02A digital-resource amendment	301	543	Failed

Voting-event audit

Officially verifiable voting events: 75

Election ballots with exact counts: 29

Non-election votes with exact results: 15

Total exact numerical voting events: 44

Voice or consent events without totals: 31

Transcript-recorded action omitted from supplied minutes: Resolution 5-14

Election total discrepancy

The transcript announced 574 votes for Bruce Schultz, while the official minutes record 547. The official written election report controls.

7. Motion and Amendment Map

Resolution 5-15

1. Main resolution pending from morning
2. Prior "reconciliatory" amendment already adopted
3. "Work in good faith" amendment adopted 574-310
4. Main debate resumed and closed
5. Resolution adopted 813-87

Resolution 7-07A

1. Main resolution returned
2. CTCR-lead amendment proposed
3. Amendment failed by voice

4. Main debate closed
5. Resolution adopted 773-143

Resolution 7-09A

1. Main resolution introduced
2. Delete “and present” amendment proposed
3. Amendment failed 186-708
4. Main debate closed
5. Resolution adopted 818-91
6. Doxology and prayer followed

Resolution 5-05

1. Main resolution introduced
2. Primary amendment proposed
3. Secondary “must” amendment failed 414-437
4. Primary amendment failed 377-506
5. Main debate closed
6. Resolution adopted 787-114

Resolution 5-09A

1. Main resolution introduced
2. Recommendations-for-action amendment failed
3. Synodwide-study-materials amendment adopted 453-436
4. Delete-study-mechanism amendment failed
5. Automatic closure
6. Resolution adopted 607-296

Resolution 3-01A

1. Main resolution introduced
2. Faith-based nonprofit amendment adopted 502-317
3. Government-aid amendment failed
4. Resolution adopted 779-68
5. Later reconsideration failed

Resolution 3-02A

1. Main resolution introduced
2. Digital-resource amendment proposed
3. Voice vote uncertain
4. Division confirmed failure 301-543
5. Main resolution adopted by voice

8. Resolution Analysis

5-15, AALC fellowship

Purpose: Address unresolved cases involving pastors or congregations received by the AALC and protect unity in doctrine and practice.

Strongest support: Fellowship requires mutual respect for ecclesiastical discipline, candid conversation, and good-faith resolution.

Strongest concern: Public convention language may harden the relationship if it appears to assign fault unilaterally.

Final disposition: Adopted 813-87 as twice amended. Fellowship was not severed.

7-07A, Lutheran identity

Purpose: Clarify Lutheran identity for Concordia universities and strengthen standards grounded in Scripture and the Confessions.

Strongest support: A university bearing the Concordia and Lutheran names should articulate and embody its confession clearly.

Strongest concern: Identity measures can become superficial, culturally narrow, or institutional rather than Christ-centered.

Final disposition: Adopted 773-143. CUS leads in consultation with CTCR.

7-08A, CUS status

Purpose: Compare corporate and commission models and propose a 2029 recommendation.

Strongest support: Serious governance disagreements deserve patient joint study rather than a rushed structural decision.

Strongest concern: A long study may delay reform or become a vehicle for greater central control.

Final disposition: Adopted 850-53. Study only, no immediate restructuring.

7-09A, Concordia Ann Arbor

Purpose: Give thanks, acknowledge grief, support continuing ministry, and encourage church-work education.

Strongest support: The Church can honor faithful ministry and seek a future without remaining trapped in accusation.

Strongest concern: Commending present leaders before a full review might prejudge disputed decisions.

Final disposition: Adopted 818-91 without amendment.

5-05, Closed Communion

Purpose: Reaffirm doctrine, pastoral responsibility, supervision, catechesis, charity, and discretion.

Strongest support: Closed Communion protects the communicant, confesses unity, and treats the Sacrament as Christ's body and blood.

Strongest concern: The relationship between doctrine, discretion, congregational practice, and supervision remains difficult.

Final disposition: Adopted 787-114. Pastoral discretion was not eliminated.

5-09A, Public Scripture reading

Purpose: Study the theological question and reduce needless controversy.

Strongest support: Conflicting interpretations of 1 Timothy 4:13 require careful theological treatment.

Strongest concern: The study could begin with an assumed conclusion or later bind consciences beyond Scripture.

Final disposition: Adopted 607-296 with study-materials amendment. No immediate ban.

3-01A, Life ministry

Purpose: Commend and encourage pro-life witness and mercy work.

Strongest support: Congregations and organizations are already serving mothers, fathers, children, and vulnerable neighbors.

Strongest concern: “Faith-based nonprofits” may be too broad unless doctrinal and ethical qualifications are clear.

Final disposition: Adopted 779-68 as amended. Reconsideration failed.

5-08A, Men and women

Purpose: Reaffirm the Synod’s teaching on the pastoral office while encouraging faithful service by women and leadership by men.

Strongest support: It holds doctrinal clarity together with gratitude for women’s many vocations.

Strongest concern: Some believe the framing does not sufficiently recognize the breadth of women’s biblical witness.

Final disposition: Adopted 742-138.

3-02A, Adoption and fostering

Purpose: Connect Christian adoption and fostering with baptismal identity and care for children.

Strongest support: Adoption is a concrete mercy vocation reflecting God’s adoption of sinners in Christ.

Strongest concern: Families still need practical, trustworthy information about agencies consistent with the Synod’s confession.

Final disposition: Adopted by voice without amendment.

9. Amendment Register

Resolution	Amendment summary	Purpose	Vote	Effect
5-15	Add “to work in good faith”	Avoid presuming bad faith	574-310, passed	Added to final text
7-07A	Make CTCR lead entity	Theological primacy	Voice, failed	CUS BOD remained lead
7-09A	Delete “and present”	Delay commendation of current leaders	186-708, failed	No change
5-05	Add “must”	Stronger mandatory wording	414-437, failed	No effect
5-05	Replace pastoral wording with constitutional language	Emphasize confessional obligation	377-506, failed	No effect
5-09A	Require recommendations for convention action	Move study toward action	Voice, failed	No effect
5-09A	Create Synodwide study materials	Broaden participation	453-436, passed	Added to final text
5-09A	Strike study and reporting lines	Remove central study mechanism	Voice, failed	No effect
3-01A	Add faith-based nonprofits	Broaden collaboration	502-317, passed	Expanded scope
3-01A	Add government-aid support language	Include public assistance	Voice, failed	No effect
Bylaw 4.2.4	Add “as determined by the Synod President”	Identify decision-maker	Voice, passed	Ratification required
3-02A	Add digital adoption-resource resolve	Help families locate agencies	301-543, failed	No effect

10. Nominations and Elections

Important distinction

No nomination pool was reopened, no candidate was newly added from the floor, and no action merely placed someone on a ballot. Every person listed below was declared elected. Concordia Texas election did not guarantee seating.

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

Committee 11 announced that all convention elections had been completed.³

11. Reports, Announcements, and Financial Information

International Mission and Brazil

Figure	Meaning
\$150,000	Prior disaster-response grant or donation
420,000 homes	Approximate homes affected by 2024 flooding
2.4 million people	Approximate people affected
More than 200 participants	Disaster-response conference participation

These were reports about prior ministry and disaster-response assistance. They were not new appropriations adopted during Session 8.

Life Match ministry information

Figure	Meaning
181 projects	Projects supported since 2022
656,000 people	Estimated people served
More than 9,000 volunteers	Volunteers offering spiritual, emotional, and physical care
78 babies	Babies born to clients choosing life in the featured ministry
54 families	Monthly families served by one congregation, up from 15

Other announcements concerned the found missing person, the Atlantic District memorial display, the President's Reception, and luggage storage and retrieval.

12. Procedural and Governance Significance

Official minutes control election totals

The Bruce Schultz discrepancy shows why preliminary oral announcements must be checked against the certified election report.

Division replaces an uncertain voice result

Electronic division controlled for the 3-01A and 3-02A amendments.

Automatic closure can limit explanation

On 5-09A, the twenty-minute rule closed debate before the final amendment mover gave a full rationale.

Reconsideration requires a prevailing-side mover

The mover seeking reconsideration of 3-01A established that he voted on the prevailing side.

An adopted bylaw amendment may still require ratification

The Bylaw 4.2.4 clarification passed Wednesday but required action in the next session.

Election does not guarantee seating

This was especially important for Concordia Texas regents.

Study is not final doctrine

Resolution 5-09A assigned study and conversation rather than settling the practice.

Mandatory verbs matter

The 5-05 debate tested whether "must" should replace pastoral exhortation and rejected that change.

Orders of the day determine what survives

Additional business remained at risk of dying at final adjournment.

Source conflict must be named

Resolution 5-14 should be verified, not guessed.

■ 13. What Officially Happened

Adopted or approved

- Tuesday Sessions 5 and 6 minutes
- 5-15 as twice amended
- 7-07A
- 7-08A
- 7-09A without amendment
- 5-05 without amendment
- 5-09A as amended
- 3-01A as amended
- Bylaw 4.2.4 amendment, subject to ratification
- 10-07
- 5-08A
- 3-02A without amendment
- All listed regent and Commission on Worship elections

Rejected or failed

- CTCR-lead amendment to 7-07A
- “And present” amendment to 7-09A
- Both substantive amendments to 5-05
- Recommendations-for-action amendment to 5-09A
- Amendment deleting the 5-09A study mechanism
- Government-aid amendment to 3-01A
- Reconsideration of 3-01A
- Digital-resource amendment to 3-02A

Assigned

- AALC reconciliation and reporting
- Lutheran-identity work
- CUS corporate-status study
- Closed Communion exceptions study
- Lay-reading study and materials
- Continued life-ministry and adoption-fostering work

Pending or unfinished

- Ratification of the Bylaw 4.2.4 amendment
- Any committee or delegate business not reached before final adjournment

Transcript-recorded, verification needed

- Resolution 5-14, “To Respectfully Decline Overtures”

■ 14. Immediate Ramifications

Confirmed immediate consequences

- All scheduled elections were completed.
- Commission on Worship membership was filled.
- The Synod formally addressed AALC fellowship concerns.
- CUS and CTCR received Lutheran-identity work.
- A CUS governance study was authorized.
- CUAA received an official expression of thanksgiving, grief, and encouragement.
- Closed Communion teaching and pastoral discretion were reaffirmed.
- Study of lay Scripture reading was commissioned and broadened to Synodwide conversations.
- Life Ministry’s cooperative scope was expanded.
- The Synod reaffirmed its teaching on men and women.
- Adoption and fostering were formally commended.

Administrative and implementation consequences

Entity	Responsibility
Synod Secretary	Maintain AALC-related information
Church Relations	Continue AALC dialogue
CUS Board	Lead Lutheran-identity work
CTCR	Consult on identity and assist with Communion and reading studies
Synod BOD and CUS BOD	Study CUS governance
Seminary presidents	Appoint lay-reading study committee
Seminary faculties	Produce joint theological opinion
Council of Presidents	Study and evaluate lay-reading issue
Districts and circuits	Host theological conversations
Life Ministry	Continue grants, resources, and advice
Committee 10 and Secretary	Present ratification action Thursday

Consequences not yet known

- Whether Resolution 10-08 would be ratified.
- How “extenuating circumstances” would be defined.
- Whether Concordia Texas would seat elected regents.
- What the Lutheran-identity standards will require.
- Whether CUS governance will change in 2029.
- What conclusions the lay-reading study will reach.
- Whether AALC reconciliation will resolve the disputed cases.
- Whether Ann Arbor can rebuild church-work programs.

■ 15. Longer-Term Significance

AALC fellowship

- Confirmed: reconciliatory, good-faith work.
- Likely: clearer procedures for receiving pastors and congregations.
- Open: whether both bodies agree on the disputed cases.
- Avoid: claiming fellowship was suspended or severed.

Lutheran university identity

- Confirmed: CUS and CTCR must define and clarify identity.
- Likely: future effects on training, personnel, worship, curriculum, and assessment.
- Open: whether standards will function as resources, accountability measures, or both.
- Avoid: claiming a detailed identity test was immediately imposed.

CUS governance

- Confirmed: comparative study.
- Likely: major 2029 structural proposal.
- Open: whether a commission model would improve accountability or increase centralization.
- Avoid: saying CUS was restructured Wednesday.

Concordia Ann Arbor

- Confirmed: thanksgiving, grief, support, encouragement.
- Likely: potential help for reconciliation and future programs.
- Open: financial feasibility and academic capacity.
- Avoid: saying programs were reopened or prior reductions reversed.

Closed Communion

- Confirmed: doctrine and pastoral stewardship reaffirmed.
- Likely: use in supervisory consultation.
- Open: CTCR treatment of extraordinary circumstances.
- Avoid: saying pastoral discretion was abolished.

Public reading of Scripture

- Confirmed: study, discussion, materials, and reporting.
- Likely: a clearer 2029 proposal.
- Open: whether the matter is doctrinally required, prohibited, or left to judgment.
- Avoid: saying an immediate ban was adopted.

■ 16. Ministry Implications

Congregations

Communion statements, visitor conversations, catechesis, lay-reading discussions, adoption and fostering support, life-ministry partnerships, university questions, and circuit gatherings.

Pastors

Stewardship of the Sacrament, pastoral discretion, charitable conversation, accurate explanation of study resolutions, and support for vulnerable families.

Commissioned ministers

Resolution 5-08A explicitly commended women serving in teaching, education, outreach, family-life, music, deaconess, parish-assistant, and other commissioned vocations.

Circuit visitors

Improving Communion practice, facilitating study, supporting vacancies, and clarifying convention action.

District leaders

Supervision, lay-reading discussion, AALC information, university cooperation, Bylaw 4.2.4 implementation, and life-ministry partnerships.

Seminaries

Joint theological opinion, careful exegesis, participation with COP, and practical study materials.

Concordia universities

Identity clarification, governance review, worship accountability, Ann Arbor questions, new regents, and Concordia Texas uncertainty.

International mission

Brazil showed how theological and practical preparation can strengthen local response when disaster strikes.

Mercy ministry

Pregnancy-resource work, adoption and foster care, family support, volunteer mobilization, trusted partnerships, and care for body and soul.

17. “Kingdom over Castle” Ministry Analysis

“Kingdom over Castle” is a project lens, not an official convention term.

Action	Connection	Partnership implication
5-15	Direct	The action sought reconciliation rather than institutional victory. Administrative tracking should serve accountability without replacing brotherly conversation.
7-07A	Direct but mixed	Clear Lutheran identity can equip universities, but it must not collapse into branding, bureaucracy, or institutional loyalty.
7-08A	Reasonable but indirect	Collaborative study reflects patient process. Structural analysis should serve students, congregations, and worker formation.
7-09A	Direct	The resolution and prayer moved from accusation toward thanksgiving, grief, repentance, and renewed mission.

Action	Connection	Partnership implication
5-05	Direct	Closed Communion serves care of souls and confession. Supervision should assist, teach, admonish, and protect.
5-09A	Direct	The successful amendment invited circuits and districts into theological study, reflecting trust and shared responsibility.
3-01A	Direct	Life Match displayed congregations, Synod ministries, donors, volunteers, and community partners serving neighbors together.
Brazil response	Direct	A strong example of open-handed generosity, local leadership, preparedness, and mercy shaped by the theology of the cross.

■ 18. What Delegates Should Be Thinking About

Questions about faithfulness

- Does the resolution distinguish what Scripture commands from what prudence recommends?
- Is pastoral discretion preserved without becoming indiscriminate practice?
- Will the lay-reading study genuinely test every claim by Scripture?
- Does Lutheran identity remain centered in Christ, Scripture, Law and Gospel, and the Confessions?
- Are women's vocations honored without confusing them with the pastoral office?

Questions about governance and procedure

- What still requires ratification?
- Who determines whether an extenuating circumstance exists?
- Is that determination documented or reviewable?
- Which elected regents can presently be seated?
- What is the official status of Resolution 5-14?
- Which Thursday schedule is formally operative?

Questions about mission and ministry

- Will CUS governance serve students and congregations more effectively?
- How will universities communicate Lutheran identity to non-Lutheran students?
- Can Ann Arbor rebuild church-work formation sustainably?
- Will study materials foster persuasion by Scripture rather than factional talking points?
- Can AALC dialogue strengthen fellowship?

Questions about stewardship and implementation

- What will the CUS study cost?
- What resources will seminaries and COP need?
- How will faith-based partners be vetted?
- Who maintains practical adoption-resource information?
- How will the Synod measure implementation?

Questions about unity and life together

- Can the Church speak firmly without questioning motives?
- Are public debates leaving room for repentance and forgiveness?
- Does humor relieve tension or attach itself to a vulnerable speaker?

- Can disagreements remain under the Gospel?
- Are delegates listening for the concern beneath an imperfect amendment?

■ 19. What Delegates Should Pray About

■ For fidelity

Lord Jesus, keep Your Church faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. Preserve the Gospel from error, fear, pride, and institutional self-protection.

■ For repentance and forgiveness

Forgive us where our speech has wounded brothers and sisters. Give us courage to confess our failures and grace to forgive.

■ For pastors and congregations

Give pastors wisdom as stewards of Your mysteries. Give congregations patience in catechesis and charity toward visitors.

■ For the seminaries and Council of Presidents

Guide those studying the public reading of Scripture. Keep them from predetermined conclusions, factional pressure, and careless exegesis.

■ For Concordia universities

Bless students, faculty, presidents, regents, campus pastors, and families. Keep the universities Lutheran because they confess Christ faithfully.

■ For Ann Arbor

Bring healing, repentance, wisdom, and a renewed day of faithful ministry.

■ For the AALC and the LCMS

Grant reconciliatory dialogue, good faith, truth, patience, and restored trust.

■ For adoption, fostering, and life ministry

Protect vulnerable children and strengthen mothers, fathers, foster parents, adoptive families, volunteers, and pregnancy-resource ministries.

■ For missionaries and disaster victims

Bless the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil and all who suffer after flood, fire, storm, war, and displacement.

■ For elected leaders

Give every regent and Commission on Worship member courage, humility, wisdom, and fidelity.

■ For those who mourn

Comfort all who grieve with the promise: I know that my Redeemer lives.

■ 20. Preparing for Thursday, July 23, 2026

Business carried forward

- Ratification of the Bylaw 4.2.4 amendment, published as Resolution 10-08.
- Thursday consent calendar.
- Any remaining Mercy, National Witness, Finance, Life Together, or unfinished business called before adjournment.
- Final minutes, credentials matters, Itinerarium, and adjournment.

Completed Wednesday, not Thursday carryover

Resolutions 5-15, 7-07A, 7-08A, 7-09A, 5-05, 5-09A, 3-01A, 5-08A, and 3-02A, plus all elections, were completed Wednesday afternoon.

Thursday schedules printed in the generated report

Adopted schedule	President's proposed schedule
8:00 Matins	8:00 Matins
8:20 Consent Calendar	8:20 Consent Calendar
8:30 Minutes	8:30 Minutes
8:35 Registration, Credentials, Elections	8:35 Mercy
8:55 Finance	9:05 National Witness
9:20 Life Together	9:35 Itinerarium
10:25 Mercy	9:45 Adjournment
11:05 Unfinished Business	
11:50 Itinerarium	
12:00 Adjournment	

The shorter timetable was labeled a presidential proposal. Delegates needed to hear the chair establish the controlling order.¹⁸

Resolution 10-08 questions

- Is the Synod president's determination sole and final?
- Is consultation with the district required?
- Must the reason be documented?
- Is there review or appeal?
- What counts as an extenuating circumstance?
- Does the amendment apply immediately after ratification?

Practical preparation

- Arrive before Matins.
- Keep the voting device available even though ordinary elections were complete.
- Listen for the chair's schedule ruling.
- Keep Resolution 10-08 open.
- Coordinate consent-calendar concerns early.
- Distinguish Thursday ratification from Wednesday's amendment vote.
- Retrieve luggage before 12:45 p.m.

- Expect unresolved business to die at adjournment.

■ 21. Five-Part Closing Summary

Five most important official actions

- 5-15 adopted as twice amended, 813-87.
- 7-07A on Lutheran identity adopted, 773-143.
- 7-08A commissioned a CUS governance study, 850-53.
- 5-05 reaffirmed closed Communion and pastoral discretion, 787-114.
- 5-09A commissioned study and Synodwide discussion, 607-296.

Five most significant procedural moments

- Completion of all remaining elections.
- Electronic correction of uncertain voice votes.
- Narrow 453-436 adoption of the 5-09A study-materials amendment.
- Automatic closure before every speaker was heard.
- Ruling that Bylaw 4.2.4 required Thursday ratification.

Five most significant ministry implications

- Greater theological accountability for Concordia universities.
- Synodwide discussion of lay Scripture reading rather than immediate prohibition.
- Continued pastoral discretion within closed Communion.
- Expanded life-ministry cooperation.
- Stronger encouragement for adoption, fostering, and disaster response.

Five questions every delegate should carry

- Which Thursday schedule controls?
- What exactly does Resolution 10-08 ratify?
- How will “as determined by the Synod President” function?
- Which consent items deserve separate explanation?
- What essential business must be completed before adjournment?

Five matters for prayer

- Faithfulness to Christ and His Word.
- Repentance and healing among divided brothers and sisters.
- Wisdom for universities and elected leaders.
- Mercy for vulnerable children, families, and disaster victims.
- Confidence in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

■ 22. One-Page Thursday Morning Briefing

■ Wednesday afternoon in one paragraph

Wednesday afternoon began with the Church remembering the faithful departed through Romans 6 and the promises of Baptism. Delegates then completed all remaining elections, adopted Resolution 5-15 concerning the AALC as twice amended, approved Lutheran-identity and CUS-governance studies, gave thanks for Concordia Ann Arbor, reaffirmed closed Communion, commissioned study of public Scripture reading, broadened life-ministry collaboration, reaffirmed the Synod's teaching concerning men and women, encouraged adoption and fostering, heard a Brazil disaster-response presentation, and adopted an amendment clarifying that the Synod president determines whether extenuating circumstances excuse a district-president installation. That last action still required Thursday ratification.

■ Decisions and results

5-15: 813-87. 7-07A: 773-143. 7-08A: 850-53. 7-09A: 818-91. 5-05: 787-114. 5-09A amendment: 453-436. 5-09A: 607-296. 3-01A amendment: 502-317. 3-01A: 779-68. 5-08A: 742-138. 3-02A adopted by voice. All elections completed.

■ Unfinished business

Resolution 10-08 ratification, Thursday consent calendar, and any remaining Mercy, National Witness, Finance, Life Together, or delegate business called before adjournment.

■ Voting and procedural notes

Election does not guarantee a Concordia Texas regent will be seated. Division controls over uncertain voice votes. Automatic closure may occur before every speaker is heard. Study resolutions do not establish final doctrine. Wednesday's Bylaw 4.2.4 amendment required Thursday ratification. Resolution 5-14 needs verification.

■ Why it matters

The afternoon affected church fellowship, university identity and governance, Ann Arbor's future, closed Communion, lay Scripture reading, life ministry, adoption and fostering, ecclesiastical supervision, international disaster response, university boards, and the Commission on Worship.

■ What to watch Thursday

The schedule ruling, Resolution 10-08, the consent calendar, Mercy and National Witness, new delegate resolutions, final unfinished business, and the exact moment of adjournment.

■ Questions to carry

What authority is being granted? What consultation is required? What remains advisory? What becomes mandatory? What serves congregations and Gospel witness? What requires verification in the Proceedings?

■ Prayer focus

Lord Jesus Christ, You have been raised from the dead and death no longer has dominion over You. Keep Your Church faithful. Give delegates wisdom, repentance, courage, humility, patience, and joy. Let every final action serve Your Gospel, protect Your people, and strengthen the Church's witness. Amen.

■ 23. Verification Report

Verification completed

- Reviewed the complete uploaded transcript from the Commemoration through Responsive Prayer.
- Reviewed the official Sessions 7 and 8 minutes.
- Identified the formal opening, business opening, business ending, and prayer conclusion.
- Included every major agenda category.
- Accounted for all elections and distinguished them from nominations.
- Accounted for every resolution recorded in the official minutes.
- Included voice votes without invented totals.
- Attached amendments to the correct main resolutions.
- Checked election spellings and totals against the official record.
- Used official counts where the transcript differed.
- Distinguished reports from convention action.
- Identified the ratification requirement for Bylaw 4.2.4.
- Separated confirmed effects, reasonable implications, open questions, and speculation.
- Identified the Resolution 5-14 source conflict.

Items that could not be verified

Item requiring verification	Source or clarification needed
Resolution 5-14 final official disposition	The transcript records adoption, but the supplied official minutes omit it. Needed: corrected minutes, Resolution Action Report, or Proceedings.
Exact official wall-clock adjournment time	The transcript permits approximation, but the minutes do not print an exact time.
Numerical totals for voice votes	No totals were announced or printed.
Complete adopted wording of every resolution	Needed: final Proceedings or compiled adopted-resolution text.
Exact municipal count in the Brazil presentation	The automated transcript is unclear.
Exact membership of the Institution Advisory Council	Needed: current CUS bylaws or official committee material.
Implementation costs	No final cost was announced for the CUS, identity, Communion, or lay-reading studies.
Whether Concordia Texas will seat elected regents	Litigation and institutional recognition remained unresolved.
Final result of Resolution 10-08	Thursday action falls outside the Wednesday transcript.

■ Closing Gospel Frame

The afternoon began by remembering the dead.

It ended with Job's confession:

"I know that my Redeemer lives."

Between those moments came elections, amendments, procedural confusion, narrow votes, broad majorities, laughter, grief, disagreement, repentance, mercy, mission, and prayer.

■ What convention work cannot do

No regent saves a university. No committee preserves the Church. No amendment forgives sin. No convention majority defeats death.

■ What preserves the Church

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

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

■ Full Footnotes and Sources

1. 2026 Convention Minutes, Sessions 7 and 8, Session 8 opening, Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, approval of minutes, and Session 8 structure, pages 4-9 of the supplied PDF.
2. Transcript, Wednesday afternoon, July 22, 2026, approximately 0:04-0:17, President Michael E. Gibson sermon on Romans 6:3-11 and Baptismal resurrection hope.
3. 2026 Convention Minutes, Sessions 7 and 8, election results, pages 4-6.
4. Transcript, approximately 0:51-0:53, question and Secretary's explanation concerning Concordia University Texas regents and seating amid litigation.
5. 2026 Convention Minutes, Sessions 7 and 8, page 6, Resolution 5-15 amendment and final vote.
6. 2026 Convention Minutes, Sessions 7 and 8, pages 6-7, Resolutions 7-07A and 7-08A.
7. 2026 Convention Minutes, Sessions 7 and 8, page 7, Resolution 7-09A amendment and final vote.
8. 2026 Convention Minutes, Sessions 7 and 8, page 7, Resolution 5-05 amendments and final vote.
9. 2026 Convention Minutes, Sessions 7 and 8, page 7, Resolution 5-09A amendments and final vote.
10. 2026 Convention Minutes, Sessions 7 and 8, page 7, recognition of officers and Brazil disaster-response presentation.
11. 2026 Convention Minutes, Sessions 7 and 8, page 8, Resolution 3-01A amendments and final vote.
12. 2026 Convention Minutes, Sessions 7 and 8, page 8, Committee 10 amendment to Bylaw 4.2.4 and Resolution 10-07.
13. 2026 Convention Minutes, Sessions 7 and 8, page 8, Resolution 5-08A and failed reconsideration of Resolution 3-01A.
14. 2026 Convention Minutes, Sessions 7 and 8, page 8, Resolution 3-02A amendment, division, and final adoption.
15. Transcript, approximately 3:58-4:00, Resolution 5-14 introduced and declared adopted by voice vote. This action is omitted from the supplied official minutes and requires confirmation.
16. Transcript, approximately 3:20-3:43, LCMS Life Ministry and Life Match figures and testimony.
17. Transcript, approximately 3:04-3:22, Rev. Airton Schroeder presentation concerning Brazil disaster response, training, grant support, and flood impact.
18. Today's Business Issue 6 schedule and Resolution 10-08 source detail not provided in the current file set. Information preserved from the generated session analysis.
19. Transcript, approximately 4:21-4:28, Responsive Prayer with Job 19:25-27 and "I Know That My Redeemer Lives."

■ Source details marked "Not provided"

One item: the exact bibliographic details for Today's Business Issue 6 were not available in the current local file set. The schedule content was preserved from the generated report and clearly labeled.