



CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED

LCMS 2026 Convention Morning Session Analysis

Session 7, Wednesday Morning, July 22, 2026

Official actions, amendments, procedural rulings, ministry implications, and preparation for Thursday

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

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A verified report using the official Session 7 minutes as the controlling action record and the complete Wednesday morning transcript for chronology, debate, and atmosphere.

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Source and Scope Correction

The assignment template contains several leftover references to an afternoon session, Monday, Tuesday, and preparation for Tuesday. The uploaded materials actually cover Session 7, Wednesday morning, July 22, 2026. The official minutes control final actions, vote totals, and dispositions. The transcript supplies chronology, debate, explanations, and recording timestamps.¹²

Controlling-source rule

When the transcript and minutes differ, the official minutes control the convention action. The transcript is used to explain what was said, what delegates heard, and how the session moved.

- This report analyzes Wednesday morning from Matins through the lunch recess.
- It prepares delegates for Thursday, July 23.
- Wednesday afternoon minutes are used only to update the status of morning business before Thursday.
- Unverified details are identified plainly rather than reconstructed from memory.

1. Session Information

Item	Information
Session	Session 7, Wednesday morning
Convention day	Fifth convention day
Date	Wednesday, July 22, 2026
Scheduled beginning	8:00 a.m.
Formal worship in recording	Approximately 0:11 to 0:35
Business begins in recording	Approximately 0:35
Recording conclusion	Approximately 4:07
Approximate duration	Four hours
Presiding officer	Primarily President Matthew C. Harrison, with First Vice-President Peter Lange and Michigan District President David A. Davis temporarily chairing
Opening preacher	Rev. T. Benjamin Ball, Second Vice-President
Scripture	Luke 7:11-17
Opening theme	Jesus alone stops death, raises the dead, and gives the son back to his grieving mother
Major agenda categories	Procedural corrections, credentials, standing rules, consent calendar, ministry greetings, finance, structure and administration, church relations, convention essay, university education
Ending status	Recessed for lunch
Unfinished at lunch	Resolution 5-15 with an amendment pending, and Resolution 7-07A after introduction and initial support speech

The recording includes several minutes of fragmentary audio before the recognizable opening of Matins. The exact wall-clock recess time is not stated in the minutes.

2. Delegate Briefing

What happened Wednesday morning?

Wednesday morning was one of the convention's most consequential governance sessions. It began with a major correction to Tuesday afternoon: the parliamentarian acknowledged that he had wrongly permitted reconsideration of Resolution 10-05A. Because the bylaw amendment had become effective immediately upon adoption, the reconsideration was ruled out of order, null, and void. Resolution 10-05A therefore stood adopted as though reconsideration had never occurred.³

Delegates then rejected two attempts to compress the remaining procedural rights. A proposal to prohibit reconsideration or rescission during the final two days failed 463-384 because it did not receive the required majority of the entire membership. A proposal to shorten automatic debate closure from twenty minutes to ten failed 279-578.

The consent calendar was adopted after an attempt to remove Resolution 5-12 fell just short of the new 15 percent threshold. The removal vote was 129-739, so Resolution 5-12 and five other items remained bundled and were adopted together.

Five most consequential developments

1. Resolution 10-05A was restored to adopted status

The chair ruled that Tuesday's reconsideration was procedurally impossible. The adopted bylaw text therefore remained in effect and a separate corrective route would be needed.

2. Delegates retained the congregational presidential election system

Resolution 9-18 would have returned the election to convention delegates. Resolution 9-15 was accepted as a substitute and adopted 617-272, preserving the wider congregational electorate while directing greater attention to registration and participation.

3. Electoral-circuit standards were tightened, but flexibility was restored

Resolution 9-13 adopted new parameters. An amendment restored the Synod president's authority to grant exceptions upon request from a district board of directors, passing 489-411.

4. A constitutional mechanism for special district conventions advanced

Resolution 9-14A passed 887-24. Because it amends the Constitution, congregational ratification remains necessary.

5. University worship language was strengthened

Resolution 7-06A was amended so that worship materials and practices must, rather than merely should, be doctrinally pure. The amended resolution passed 806-83.

Three-minute takeaway

The morning preserved broad congregational participation in the presidential election, adopted major district and university governance changes, strengthened doctrinal expectations for university worship, and corrected a material parliamentary error. Two theology and university resolutions remained pending at lunch.

3. Session at a Glance

Approx. Time	Agenda Item	Action or Development	Result	Why It Matters
0:11-0:35	Morning Prayer	Sermon on Jesus raising the widow's son	Worship completed	Grounded the day in Christ's victory over death
0:35-0:40	Resolution 10-05A ruling	Tuesday reconsideration declared null and void	10-05A restored to adopted status	Corrected the official legal status
0:40-0:41	Credentials	Registration report	Adopted by voice vote	Recorded 949 voting delegates
0:41-0:46	Standing Rule 26	Ban reconsideration and rescission during final two days	Failed 463-384	Preserved those motions
0:46-0:49	Standing Rule 23	Shorten automatic closure from twenty to ten minutes	Failed 279-578	Preserved debate time
0:49-0:52	Consent calendar	Attempt to remove 5-12	Failed threshold, 129-739	Six resolutions remained bundled
0:52	Consent calendar	Calendar adopted	Voice vote	Six resolutions became official action
0:52-0:58	LWML	Mission grants and ministry report	Received	Highlighted national and district Gospel grants
0:58-1:01	Lutheran Hour Ministries	Global Gospel report	Received	Reported major international reach
1:01-1:13	Committee 8	Four finance resolutions	All adopted	Addressed Confessions access, CPS, shipping, and legal accountability
1:14-1:22	HotChalk resolution	Require case-specific legal-fee disclosure	Failed 408-470	Existing disclosure mechanisms remained
1:22-1:24	Resolution 9-12	Clarify LCEF real-estate services	Adopted	Clarified corporate authority
1:24-1:28	Resolution 9-14A	Special district convention authority	Adopted 887-24	Constitutional amendment proceeds to ratification
1:28-1:42	Resolution 9-13	Electoral-circuit parameters	Adopted as amended	Tightened standards while retaining exceptions
1:42-2:05	Resolutions 9-18 and 9-15	Substitute adopted	9-15 adopted 617-272	Preserved congregational presidential voting
2:05-2:18	Resolution 9-10A	Pastoral Formation Committee membership	Adopted without amendment	Revised committee membership
2:18-2:20	Resolution 9-17A	Decline overtures	Adopted	Completed Committee 9 business
2:20-2:25	Resolution 5-04	Partner-church concerns	Adopted	Continued Synod president and CTCR work
2:25-2:47	Resolution 5-15	AALC fellowship concerns	One amendment passed, one failed, one pending	Main resolution remained unfinished
2:47-3:27	Convention essay	Christ's Resurrection for You and response	Received	Connected resurrection hope to Christian courage
3:27-3:35	Resolution 7-01	Commend CUS	Adopted	Affirmed university ministry
3:35-3:46	Resolutions 7-02A through 7-05	University governance and prior approval	Adopted	Clarified authority and protocols
3:46-4:01	Resolution 7-06A	University worship	Adopted 806-83 as amended	Strengthened doctrinal requirement
4:01-4:04	Resolution 7-07A	Lutheran identity	Introduced, pending	Carried into afternoon
4:04-4:07	LHM video	Previously omitted video played	Informational	Session recessed for lunch

4. Full Chronological Session Narrative

A. Morning Prayer: Jesus stops death

Vice-President Benjamin Ball preached on Luke 7:11-17, the raising of the widow's only son at Nain. The Law was direct: the widow could not stop her husband's death, she could not stop her son's death, and we cannot stop the deaths of those we love or our own death. Death is relentless and deserved because of sin.⁴

"Jesus stops death."

His compassion is not helpless sentiment. His Word does what it says. He touches death, claims the dead, and gives life.

Sermon theme, Luke 7:11-17

The Gospel followed with equal directness. Jesus touched the bier and said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." The man lived. Christ then took death into Himself at the cross, and His resurrection is the sure promise that He will empty the graves of all who believe and are baptized.

For preaching and teaching

The session's theological frame was not, "Good procedure saves the Church." It was, "Jesus stops death." Every institutional decision remained subordinate to the One who forgives sinners, raises the dead, and preserves His Church through Word and Sacrament.

B. Correction of Resolution 10-05A

At approximately 0:35, the parliamentarian acknowledged that he had erred Tuesday afternoon by allowing reconsideration of Resolution 10-05A. His explanation was that the resolution amended the Bylaws immediately when adopted. The chair therefore ruled that the reconsideration was out of order, a continuing breach, null, and void. Resolution 10-05A stood adopted as though reconsideration had never occurred.

The parliamentarian apologized. The chair responded with forgiveness and a light reminder that absolution did not require an electronic ballot.

Confirmed procedural effect

Tuesday's original adoption again controlled. The amendment deleting "extenuating circumstances" remained failed. The resolution was not pending after the Wednesday ruling.

C. Credentials and two standing-rule proposals

Committee 11 reported 949 voting delegates, 161 advisory delegates, 170 advisory representatives, and 174 special guests and others. The report was adopted by voice vote.⁵

Proposal to restrict reconsideration and rescission

A delegate moved to prohibit motions to reconsider or rescind during the final two days. Supporters stressed limited time and respect for committee work. Opponents argued that changing the rule after the final two-day period had begun would unfairly remove rights delegates had reasonably expected to retain.

Vote: 463 yes, 384 no. The proposal failed because a standing-rule change required a majority of the entire convention membership, not merely a majority of ballots cast.

Proposal to shorten automatic debate closure

A second proposal would have changed automatic closure from twenty minutes to ten. Supporters cited numerous minor amendments that consumed time. Opponents resisted surrendering deliberative rights for efficiency.

Vote: 279 yes, 578 no. The twenty-minute rule remained.

D. Consent calendar

The consent calendar included Resolutions 3-07, 5-12, 8-03, 8-05A, 8-06, and 9-16A. A delegate sought to remove Resolution 5-12, "To Conclude Created Male and Female Task Force and Receive Its Recommendations." The electronic vote was 129 yes and 739 no. The affirmative total fell below the required 15 percent threshold, so the item stayed on the calendar. The calendar was then adopted by voice vote.⁶

Consent-calendar caution

The 129-739 vote did not reject Resolution 5-12 on its merits. It decided only whether the item would receive separate consideration. Once removal failed, Resolution 5-12 was adopted with the rest of the calendar.

E. Ministry reports: LWML and Lutheran Hour Ministries

LWML President Eden Keefe reported a \$2.6 million national mission-grant goal for 2025-2027. Eight grants totaling more than \$660,000 directly support LCMS work, an additional \$100,000 supports Lutheran Hour Ministries, and approximately \$2 million supports churches, schools, camps, and RSOs. District grants exceeded \$6.2 million. She told of a young woman in Kenya who escaped abuse or trafficking, learned to read, and received the Word of God through grant-supported ministry.⁷

Lutheran Hour Ministries reported work in more than sixty countries, more than 300 million Gospel contacts each week, more than 900,000 people equipped during the previous year, and more than two million responses to Gospel proclamation. A planned video failed to play immediately and was shown just before lunch.

Mission lens

The reports placed open-handed generosity, relationship, local partnership, media witness, and mercy beside the convention's governance debates. Money mattered, but the testimony emphasized what the gifts carried: the Word of God and a living connection to Christ's people.

F. Committee 8: Finance

Resolution 8-04A: Expand access to the Lutheran Confessions

The resolution commended CPH for its Reader's Edition and Spanish Book of Concord work. It asked CPH to explore the feasibility and cost of adding notes and annotations from the Reader's Edition to its online Book of Concord and report to the next convention. It was adopted by unanimous voice vote.⁸

Resolution 8-02A: Clarify additional corporate responsibilities

This bylaw amendment clarified how additional responsibilities may be assigned to Synodwide corporate entities, particularly in connection with Concordia Plan Services. The immediate practical context was property and liability insurance capability for congregations, schools, and entities facing rising premiums or lost coverage. The adopted text required advance public notice, explanation, an invitation for comments, reporting, and proposed bylaw changes reflecting new responsibilities.

Resolution 8-07: CPH shipping charges

The resolution commended CPH for keeping costs reasonable and encouraged continuing efforts to lower shipping costs where possible. It was adopted by voice vote.

Resolution 8-01 and the HotChalk floor resolution

Resolution 8-01 commended the disclosure process under Bylaw 1.5.4 and gave thanks for stewardship supporting Synod mission. It was adopted by voice vote.

A Texas lay delegate then moved a new resolution requiring disclosure of the total attorneys' fees incurred by the Synod and LCEF in the HotChalk litigation and the sources from which those fees were paid. Synod officials replied that audited statements and board minutes contained legal-expense information and that Bylaw 1.5.4 offered a request process. Supporters answered that the burden should not fall on congregations to ask for information that Synod could publish proactively.

Vote: 408 yes, 470 no. The floor resolution failed. No new case-specific disclosure requirement was adopted.

G. Committee 9: Structure and Administration

Resolution 9-12: LCEF real-estate services

The bylaw amendment clarified that LCEF may provide real-estate evaluation and redevelopment services in support of Synod mission and ministry. The committee said LCEF was already engaged in real-estate solutions and wanted clear authority to provide and expand the work. The resolution was adopted by voice vote.⁹

Resolution 9-14A: Special district conventions

The constitutional amendment addressed the problem that existing language placed primary authority to call a special district convention with the district president, even when a severe situation involving that office might make the structure inadequate. The committee clarified that a special convention would be limited to the purpose stated in its call.

Vote: 887 yes, 24 no. The required two-thirds threshold was met. The amendment proceeds to congregational ratification and is not fully effective solely because of the convention vote.

Resolution 9-13: Electoral-circuit parameters

The proposal concerned electoral circuits, not visitation circuits. The committee described the standards as at least six parishes, at least 1,500 confirmed members, no upper membership limit, and at least one electoral circuit in each district.¹⁰

A Pacific Southwest District delegate moved to retain the existing language allowing exceptions only by the President of the Synod upon request from a district board of directors. Supporters cited geography, urban ministry, demographic change, and local mission realities. Opponents argued that exceptions could undermine the task force's purpose and that districts should do the hard work of recircuiting.

Amendment vote: 489 yes, 411 no. The exception was restored. An advisory delegate later attempted another amendment, but advisory delegates may not make motions. Resolution 9-13 was adopted as amended by voice vote.

Resolutions 9-18 and 9-15: Presidential elections

Resolution 9-18 proposed returning the final presidential election to the convention floor while retaining the five-candidate nominating process. The committee cited technical challenges, incomplete registration, online political activity, and the ease of voting among assembled delegates.¹¹

Tim Eden moved Resolution 9-15 as a substitute. He argued that the problem was voter registration rather than voter participation, that more than 5,000 voters had participated, and that congregations should not lose their direct vote without prior input. The substitute emphasized profiles, contact information, district and circuit education, and assistance for vacant congregations.

Consider substitute: 581-323. Adopt substitute: 617-272. Resolution 9-15 was adopted and Resolution 9-18 was consequently declined.

Key governance takeaway

The convention chose wider congregational participation over concentrating the presidential vote among convention delegates. That choice also placed a practical duty on congregations, circuits, and districts to maintain accurate data and help eligible voters participate.

Resolution 9-10A: Pastoral Formation Committee

The proposal revised committee membership to include the seminary presidents, a district president appointed by the Council of Presidents, and a parish pastor appointed by the Synod president.

An amendment would have barred a first-term district president from the appointment. Supporters cited the office's learning curve and the value of seasoned experience. Opponents trusted the Council of Presidents to recognize the gifts needed. The amendment failed by voice vote. Resolution 9-10A was adopted without amendment.

Resolution 9-17A: Decline overtures

The updated declination resolution was adopted without debate by voice vote, completing Committee 9's morning business.

H. Committee 5: Theology and Church Relations

Resolution 5-04: Partner-church concerns

The resolution commended the Synod president, Church Relations staff, and CTCR for addressing partner-church concerns, commended theological resources, urged continued work, and requested a report to the next convention. A delegate asked about women serving in roles that cause confusion with the pastoral office. The response referred to SELK practices involving female pastoral assistants who may publicly expound Scripture in ways the LCMS has questioned. Resolution 5-04 was adopted by voice vote.¹²

Resolution 5-15: The AALC

The resolution addressed the American Association of Lutheran Churches receiving pastors or congregations formerly connected to the LCMS before the LCMS believed the relevant matters had been resolved. It called for rectification, administrative information for district presidents, continued dialogue, and a report to the 2029 convention.¹³

An amendment added the word "reconciliatory" before "dialogue" and passed by voice vote. A second amendment would have replaced "according to LCMS bylaws" with mutual-accountability wording honoring the ecclesiastical judgments of both church bodies. Opponents said the clause described unresolved LCMS status rather than attempting to govern the AALC. The second amendment failed.

A third amendment proposed adding "to work in good faith" before "to rectify." Supporters wished to avoid presuming bad faith where church bodies could reach different factual judgments. Opponents argued that receiving persons before LCMS concerns were resolved had already breached agreed protocol. Orders of the day intervened before a vote.

Status at lunch

Resolution 5-15 was not adopted or rejected during Session 7. The reconciliatory-dialogue amendment had passed, the mutual-accountability amendment had failed, and the good-faith amendment remained pending.

I. Convention essay: Christ's Resurrection for You

Rev. Kirk M. Clayton emphasized that the resurrection is not merely an event that happened to Jesus. It is Christ's victory for His people. Themes included 1 Corinthians 15, Christian fearlessness before death, Polycarp and the martyrs, funerals, grief, and the empty tomb as the guarantee that believers' graves will be emptied. Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller responded through the witness of Christian martyrs and the confidence that forgiveness and resurrection give the baptized courage under the cross.¹⁴

"If Christ is risen, nothing else matters. And if Christ is not risen, nothing else matters."

Statement attributed in the essay to Jaroslav Pelikan

J. Committee 7: University Education

Resolutions 7-01 through 7-05

Resolution 7-01 commended the Concordia University System. Resolution 7-02A clarified Board of Regents training. Resolution 7-03A clarified authority over modifications and creation or discontinuation of roster-related degree programs. Resolution 7-04 clarified prior-approval protocols for theological faculties. Resolution 7-05 called for clearer published protocols for university presidential candidates. All five were adopted by voice vote, with the minutes recording unanimity for 7-02A through 7-05.¹⁵

Resolution 7-06A: University worship

The resolution encouraged campus worship that forms students, faculty, and staff in faithfulness to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. It treated Lutheran Service Book as a benchmark, required other materials and practices to conform to Synod doctrine, affirmed responsible variety in harmony with the common confession, and requested progress reporting.¹⁶

A delegate moved to change "should be doctrinally pure" to "must be doctrinally pure." Supporters argued that doctrinal purity is not optional and that the stronger verb matched the Synod Constitution. A student questioned whether the stronger verb was wise, while a university leader stated that the campuses did not object. The amendment passed by voice vote.

A second delegate proposed language appreciating a variety of responsible practices and customs. The committee showed that similar language already appeared in the next resolve, and the amendment was withdrawn.

Final vote: 806 yes, 83 no. Resolution 7-06A was adopted as amended.

Resolution 7-07A: Lutheran identity

The resolution directed the CUS Board of Directors, in consultation with CTCR, to define and clarify Lutheran identity, report to the 2029 convention and university regents, and continue developing Lutheran Identity and Mission Outcome Standards with clearer scriptural and confessional foundations. Vice-President Ball spoke in support. The orders of the day arrived before further debate or a vote.

Question carried into the afternoon

What does Lutheran identity actually require of a Concordia university? The morning introduced the question but did not settle the resolution.

K. LHM video and lunch recess

The Lutheran Hour Ministries video that had failed earlier was shown. It emphasized Gospel proclamation through media and local believers, including work in difficult or dangerous contexts. The chair then dismissed delegates for lunch.

5. Complete Official Action Ledger

Time	Item	Type of Action	Mover or Presenter	Exact Question Before Assembly	Voting Method	Result	Immediate Effect	Verification
0:35	10-05A	Chair's ruling	Parliamentarian and chair	Was Tuesday reconsideration valid?	Ruling	Null and void	10-05A stood adopted	Minutes
0:40	Credentials	Approval	Committee 11	Adopt registration report	Voice	Adopted	Attendance recorded	Minutes
0:44	Rule 26	Close debate	Delegate	End debate	Voice	Carried	Main vote reached	Minutes
0:45	Rule 26	Standing-rule amendment	Delegate	Ban reconsideration or rescission final two days	Electronic	Failed 463-384	Existing rule retained	Minutes
0:47	Rule 23	Close debate	Delegate	End debate	Voice	Carried	Main vote reached	Minutes
0:48	Rule 23	Standing-rule amendment	Delegate	Shorten 20 minutes to 10	Electronic	Failed 279-578	Existing rule retained	Minutes
0:51	5-12	Remove from consent	Joshua Salsberg	Remove for separate debate	Electronic threshold	Failed 129-739	Stayed on consent	Minutes
0:52	Consent calendar	Adoption	Chair	Adopt six resolutions	Voice	Adopted	Six actions approved	Minutes
1:05	8-04A	Adoption	Committee 8	Expand online Confessions access	Voice	Unanimously adopted	CPH feasibility study and report	Minutes
1:10	8-02A	Adoption	Committee 8	Clarify additional corporate responsibilities	Voice	Adopted	Notice and reporting framework	Minutes
1:11	8-07	Adoption	Committee 8	Address CPH shipping	Voice	Adopted	Commendation and encouragement	Minutes
1:13	8-01	Adoption	Committee 8	Encourage legal transparency	Voice	Adopted	Existing process commended	Minutes
1:22	HotChalk	New floor resolution	Jim Runzheimer	Require case-specific fee disclosure	Electronic	Failed 408-470	No new disclosure mandate	Minutes
1:24	9-12	Bylaw adoption	Committee 9	Clarify LCEF real-estate authority	Voice	Adopted	Authority clarified	Minutes
1:28	9-14A	Constitutional amendment	Committee 9	Expand ability to call special district convention	Electronic	Adopted 887-24	Sent for congregational ratification	Minutes
1:37	9-13 amendment	Close debate	Delegate	End amendment debate	Voice	Carried	Amendment vote reached	Minutes
1:39	9-13 amendment	Amendment	Jonathan Burkee	Restore exception language	Electronic	Adopted 489-411	Exception retained	Minutes
1:41	9-13	Attempted amendment	Advisory delegate	Add lament language	Ruling	Out of order	No motion before body	Transcript
1:41	9-13	Adoption	Committee 9	Adopt as amended	Voice	Adopted	Electoral standards approved	Minutes
1:49	9-15	Consider substitute	Tim Eden	Consider substitute for 9-18	Electronic	Carried 581-323	Substitute opened for debate	Minutes
2:04	9-15	Close debate	Assembly	End substitute debate	Voice	Carried	Vote reached	Minutes

Time	Item	Type of Action	Mover or Presenter	Exact Question Before Assembly	Voting Method	Result	Immediate Effect	Verification
2:05	9-15	Substitute adoption	Tim Eden	Adopt substitute	Electronic	Adopted 617-272	9-15 adopted, 9-18 declined	Minutes
2:13	9-10A amendment	Close debate	Delegate	End amendment debate	Voice	Carried	Vote reached	Minutes
2:13	9-10A amendment	Amendment	Jonathan Burkee	Exclude first-term district president	Voice	Failed	No restriction added	Minutes
2:17	9-10A	Close debate	Delegate	End main debate	Voice	Carried	Vote reached	Minutes
2:17	9-10A	Adoption	Committee 9	Revise committee membership	Voice	Adopted	Membership changed	Minutes
2:19	9-17A	Adoption	Committee 9	Decline overtures	Voice	Adopted	Overtures declined	Minutes
2:25	5-04	Adoption	Committee 5	Address partner-church concerns	Voice	Adopted	Continued engagement directed	Minutes
2:31	5-15	Amendment	Brian Johnston	Add reconciliatory	Voice	Adopted	Dialogue wording changed	Minutes
2:36	5-15 amendment	Close debate	Delegate	End debate	Voice	Carried	Vote reached	Minutes
2:36	5-15	Amendment	Brad Erlandson	Replace LCMS bylaw phrase with mutual-accountability language	Voice	Failed	Original phrase remained	Minutes
2:42	5-15	Amendment	Eric Phillips	Add to work in good faith	Pending	No vote before lunch	Carried forward	Minutes
3:34	7-01	Adoption	Committee 7	Commend CUS	Voice	Adopted	Commendation approved	Minutes
3:37	7-02A	Bylaw adoption	Committee 7	Amend regent-training bylaw	Voice	Unanimously adopted	Bylaw changed	Minutes
3:40	7-03A	Bylaw adoption	Committee 7	Clarify program authority	Voice	Unanimously adopted	Bylaw changed	Minutes
3:43	7-04	Adoption	Committee 7	Clarify theological-faculty prior approval	Voice	Unanimously adopted	Protocol work directed	Minutes
3:45	7-05	Adoption	Committee 7	Clarify presidential prior approval	Voice	Unanimously adopted	Publication directed	Minutes
3:51	7-06A amendment	Close debate	Delegate	End amendment debate	Voice	Carried	Vote reached	Minutes
3:51	7-06A	Amendment	Brian Dah	Change should to must	Voice	Adopted	Stronger requirement inserted	Minutes
3:57	7-06A	Withdrawal	Mark Kappell	Add variety language	Withdrawal	Withdrawn	No textual effect	Minutes
4:00	7-06A	Close debate	Delegate	End main debate	Voice	Carried	Vote reached	Minutes
4:01	7-06A	Adoption	Committee 7	Adopt as amended	Electronic	Adopted 806-83	Worship guidance approved	Minutes
4:03	7-07A	Introduction	Committee 7	Clarify Lutheran identity	No vote	Pending	Carried into afternoon	Minutes
4:07	Session	Recess	Chair	Break for lunch	Announcement	Recessed	Session 7 ended	Transcript

6. Voting Details

Vote	Yes	No	Threshold	Result
Amend Rule 26	463	384	Majority of entire membership, 951	Failed
Amend Rule 23	279	578	Majority of entire membership, 951	Failed
Remove 5-12 from consent	129	739	15 percent removal threshold	Failed
HotChalk disclosure	408	470	Majority	Failed
Resolution 9-14A	887	24	Two-thirds	Adopted
9-13 exception amendment	489	411	Majority	Adopted
Consider 9-15 substitute	581	323	Majority	Adopted
Adopt 9-15 substitute	617	272	Majority	Adopted
Resolution 7-06A	806	83	Majority	Adopted

Total identifiable completed votes: 38. Exact numerical results: 9. Voice-vote or consent results without totals: 29. Completed votes with uncertain outcome: 0. Major questions left pending: 2, the amendment to Resolution 5-15 and Resolution 7-07A.

How to read the numbers

A vote may receive more yes than no and still fail if the rule requires a majority of the entire membership. A consent-calendar removal vote tests whether a threshold minority wants separate consideration, not whether the underlying resolution should pass.

7. Motion and Amendment Map

Resolution 9-13

- 1 Main motion introduced.
- 2 Amendment offered to restore exception authority.
- 3 Debate closed.
- 4 Amendment adopted 489-411.
- 5 Advisory delegate attempted another amendment.
- 6 Attempt ruled out of order.
- 7 Main resolution adopted by voice vote.
- 8 Final disposition: adopted as amended.

Resolutions 9-18 and 9-15

- 1 Main motion, 9-18, introduced.
- 2 9-15 offered as substitute.
- 3 Assembly voted to consider substitute, 581-323.
- 4 Debate occurred on substitute.
- 5 Debate closed.
- 6 Substitute adopted 617-272.
- 7 Original 9-18 displaced and declined.
- 8 Final disposition: 9-15 adopted, 9-18 declined.

Resolution 9-10A

- 1 Main resolution introduced.

- 2 Amendment proposed excluding first-term district presidents.
- 3 Debate closed.
- 4 Amendment failed by voice vote.
- 5 Main debate resumed.
- 6 Debate closed.
- 7 Main resolution adopted without amendment.

Resolution 5-15

- 1 Main resolution introduced.
- 2 Amendment adding reconciliatory adopted.
- 3 Mutual-accountability amendment proposed.
- 4 Debate closed.
- 5 Amendment failed.
- 6 Good-faith amendment proposed.
- 7 Orders of the day intervened.
- 8 Final morning disposition: main resolution and third amendment pending.

Resolution 7-06A

- 1 Main resolution introduced.
- 2 Amendment changing should to must proposed.
- 3 Debate closed.
- 4 Amendment adopted.
- 5 Second amendment proposed.
- 6 Committee showed similar language already present.
- 7 Second amendment withdrawn.
- 8 Main debate closed.
- 9 Resolution adopted 806-83 as amended.

8. Resolution Analysis

Consent-calendar resolutions

Resolution	Purpose	Confirmed Effect	Important Limit
3-07	Give thanks for congregational mercy ministries	Officially commends mercy work already occurring	Does not create a mandatory national program
5-12	Conclude the Created Male and Female Task Force and receive recommendations	Task force work received and task force concluded	Failed removal was not rejection on the merits
8-03	Support funding for the Synod's seminaries	Became official action through consent	Implementation details remain with responsible entities
8-05A	Give thanks for CPH's use of Bible translations	Commendatory Synod action	Not a new translation mandate
8-06	Commend CPH for prioritizing mission and distribution	Encourages mission-oriented publishing	Not a detailed distribution policy
9-16A	Enhance mission-board responsibilities and direct review of Overture 9-11	Creates governance and review work	Final implementation depends on assigned boards and officers

Finance and institutional stewardship

The Committee 8 package generally combined encouragement with clearer reporting and corporate authority. The strongest case was practical: congregations face real insurance, property, publishing, and financial-transparency questions, and Synod entities need adequate authority to help. The strongest concern is equally practical: expanding corporate capacity should always be accompanied by clear notice, public explanation, defined limits, accountability, and convention reporting.

Structure and governance

Resolution 9-14A

Confirmed effect: The constitutional amendment entered the congregational-ratification process. Reasonable implication: Districts may gain a safeguard for severe leadership crises. Open question: Whether the provision will ever be invoked. Speculation to avoid: It does not authorize ordinary factions to call special conventions whenever dissatisfied.

Resolution 9-13

The resolution balanced fair representation, membership decline, convention cost, geography, demographics, and local flexibility. The restored exception was significant because it retained controlled relief without abandoning numerical standards.

Resolution 9-15

Confirmed effect: The congregational election framework remains. Reasonable implication: Districts, circuits, and congregations will face greater pressure to maintain accurate data and participation. Open question: Whether registration rates will improve. Speculation to avoid: The vote does not prove the existing process is free from political or technical problems.

Theology and church relations

Resolution 5-04 adopted a patient, confessional-engagement posture: concerns are named, fellowship is valued, dialogue continues, CTCR assists, and a report is expected. Resolution 5-15 raised a harder question, how two autonomous church bodies in fellowship should address unresolved roster and discipline matters.

Strongest fair cases on 5-15

For the resolution: Fellowship requires mutual honesty, respect for discipline, and resolution of unresolved roster matters.

Legitimate concern: A public convention resolution may harden positions if the process does not visibly acknowledge the LCMS's own possible failures and the AALC's independent ecclesiastical judgments.

University education

Resolutions 7-02A and 7-03A clarified institutional governance. Resolutions 7-04 and 7-05 increased transparency and predictability in prior approval. Resolution 7-06A was the most substantive completed university resolution, holding together required doctrinal purity, LSB as a benchmark, formation of students, responsible variety, common confession, and reporting.

The change from "should" to "must" altered the governing force of the sentence. It was not merely stylistic. Resolution 7-07A then raised the deeper question of what Lutheran identity actually requires of a Concordia university.

9. Amendment Register

Resolution or Motion	Mover	Amendment Summary	Purpose Given	Debate Summary	Vote	Result	Effect on Final Text
Standing Rule 26	Sean Tyson	Extend final-day reconsideration ban to two days	Save time	Efficiency versus fairness after period began	463-384	Failed	None
Standing Rule 23	Charles Leman	Reduce automatic closure to ten minutes	Expedite business	Efficiency versus deliberative rights	279-578	Failed	None
9-13	Jonathan Burkee	Restore presidential exception language	Preserve flexibility	Local mission contexts versus uniform standards	489-411	Passed	Became final text
9-13	Advisory delegate	Add lament for membership decline	Theological framing	Advisory delegates may not move	No vote	Out of order	None
9-15	Tim Eden	Substitute 9-15 for 9-18	Preserve congregational voting and improve registration	Broad participation versus convention-based election	617-272 after consideration vote	Passed	Replaced 9-18
9-10A	Jonathan Burkee	Exclude first-term district president	Add experience requirement	Seasoned perspective versus COP discretion	Voice	Failed	None
5-15	Brian Johnston	Insert reconciliatory	State desired goal	Accepted as clearer relational aim	Voice	Passed	Became part of pending text
5-15	Brad Erlandson	Replace LCMS-bylaw phrase with mutual-accountability wording	Respect autonomy of both bodies	Meaning of clause and fellowship accountability	Voice	Failed	None
5-15	Eric Phillips	Add to work in good faith	Avoid presuming bad faith	Different findings and protocol concerns	Pending	No morning vote	Carried forward
7-06A	Brian Dah	Replace should with must	Make doctrinal purity mandatory	Strength of obligation and university practice	Voice	Passed	Became final text
7-06A	Mark Kappell	Add variety language	Protect responsible diversity	Similar language already present	Withdrawn	No vote	None

10. Nominations and Elections

No nomination pool was opened during Session 7. No person was added to a ballot. No nominee was elected during the Wednesday morning session. Committee 11's morning work was limited to credentials, procedure, and preparation for later balloting.

Status distinction

Election balloting resumed Wednesday afternoon. No person should be described as elected on the basis of Wednesday morning alone.

11. Reports, Announcements, and Financial Information

LWML financial information

Figure	Meaning
\$2.6 million	National mission-grant goal for 2025-2027
More than \$660,000	Eight national grants directly supporting LCMS work
\$100,000	Additional support for Lutheran Hour Ministries
Approximately \$2 million	Remaining national grants for churches, RSOs, schools, and camps
More than \$6.2 million	District-level grant commitments

These figures were described as goals, grant totals, and district commitments, not as one single pool already disbursed.

HotChalk information

The floor resolution asserted that legal costs likely reached millions of dollars, but no exact case-specific amount was officially disclosed during the session. The convention did not adopt a new disclosure mandate.

Administrative announcements

- Delegates were warned that late referrals might never return before adjournment.
- Declining separate consideration or referring a resolution could effectively end consideration because time was short.
- The LHM video would be shown later.
- Alumni dinners and other evening events were noted.

12. Procedural and Governance Significance

An adopted bylaw is not always reconsiderable

The 10-05A correction showed that labeling a document a resolution does not mean every adopted bylaw change remains procedurally open after it becomes effective.

Continuing breach

The chair treated the invalid reconsideration as a continuing breach, allowing correction after the previous session.

Entire-membership threshold

Rule 26 failed despite more yes than no because the threshold was calculated from the entire membership.

Threshold removal from consent

The 5-12 vote tested whether a required minority wanted separate consideration, not whether the underlying resolution deserved adoption.

Substitute resolution

The assembly first decided whether to consider 9-15, then debated and voted on the substitute. The first vote did not adopt the policy.

Advisory-delegate rights

Advisory delegates may speak but may not make motions.

Constitutional ratification

Resolution 9-14A required a two-thirds convention vote and congregational ratification.

Strong verbs matter

Changing should to must in 7-06A changed the obligation, not merely tone.

Orders of the day

The clock stopped consideration of 5-15 and 7-07A. Interruption was not rejection.

13. What Officially Happened

Adopted or approved

- Credentials report and Wednesday consent calendar.
- Resolutions 8-04A, 8-02A, 8-07, and 8-01.
- Resolutions 9-12, 9-14A subject to ratification, 9-13 as amended, 9-15 as substitute, 9-10A without amendment, and 9-17A.
- Resolution 5-04 and the reconciliatory amendment to 5-15.
- Resolutions 7-01, 7-02A, 7-03A, 7-04, 7-05, and 7-06A as amended.

Rejected or failed

- Rule 26 amendment and Rule 23 amendment.
- Removal of Resolution 5-12 from the consent calendar.
- HotChalk legal-fee disclosure resolution.
- Resolution 9-18, displaced and declined through adoption of the substitute.
- First-term district-president amendment to 9-10A.
- Mutual-accountability amendment to 5-15.

Pending or unfinished at lunch

- Good-faith amendment to Resolution 5-15.
- Resolution 5-15.
- Resolution 7-07A.
- Later election business.

Announced but not acted upon

- A possible further fix to Resolution 10-05A.
- No exact HotChalk legal-cost figure was disclosed.
- The LHM video was announced and later shown.

14. Immediate Ramifications

Confirmed immediate consequences

- Resolution 10-05A stood adopted.
- Six consent-calendar resolutions became Synod action.
- The congregational presidential-election system remained.

- New electoral-circuit standards were adopted with an exception process.
- A special district-convention constitutional amendment entered ratification.
- LCEF real-estate authority was clarified.
- University governance received new bylaw and protocol direction.
- University worship language now requires doctrinal purity.

Administrative consequences

Entity	Work Created or Clarified
Congregations	Maintain profiles and election contacts; later ratify or reject constitutional amendment 9-14A
Districts and circuits	Educate and assist presidential voters; address recircuiting
Synod president	Consider electoral-circuit exceptions
CPH	Study expanded online Confessions resources
CPS and Synod Board	Notice, comment, and reporting on new responsibilities
LCEF	Real-estate evaluation and redevelopment services
CUS Board	Regent training, program governance, prior approval, worship, and identity work
CTCR	Consultation on partner churches and Lutheran identity

Later Wednesday update, important for Thursday

The afternoon minutes show that the good-faith amendment to 5-15 passed 574-310 and the resolution as twice amended passed 813-87. Resolution 7-07A passed 773-143 after a proposed change in which entity would lead the definition process failed. Neither item remained unfinished for Thursday.¹⁷

15. Longer-Term Significance

Presidential elections

Confirmed effect: The congregational voting system remains. Reasonable implication: Accurate data and local follow-through become more important. Open question: Whether registration improves. Speculation to avoid: The vote does not guarantee healthier campaign conduct.

Electoral circuits

Confirmed effect: New parameters with an exception process were adopted. Reasonable implication: Some districts will need substantial recircuiting. Open question: How exceptions will be evaluated. Speculation to avoid: Electoral and visitation circuits are not necessarily identical.

Special district conventions

Confirmed effect: The amendment proceeds to congregational ratification. Reasonable implication: Districts may gain a safeguard for severe crises. Open question: Whether it will be invoked. Speculation to avoid: It is not immediately operative before ratification.

University worship

Confirmed effect: Other materials and practices must be doctrinally pure. Reasonable implication: Campus worship committees and regents face stronger accountability. Open question: How responsible variety will be evaluated. Speculation to avoid: The resolution does not require identical forms at every chapel.

Partner-church relations

Confirmed effect: The LCMS committed to continued engagement and accountability. Reasonable implication: More reporting and CTCR attention will follow. Open question: Whether AALC dialogue resolves the underlying cases. Speculation to avoid: The morning did not sever fellowship.

16. Ministry Implications

Congregations

Their presidential vote was preserved. Recordkeeping matters more. Seminary funding, university formation, LCEF services, and constitutional ratification remain shared responsibilities.

Pastors

Pastors should explain why participation matters, distinguish worship freedom from doctrinal purity, and teach the Gospel foundation beneath institutional decisions.

Commissioned ministers

University and church-work decisions affect teacher and director programs, program modifications, board governance, and campus spiritual life.

Circuit visitors

They may assist with voter participation, vacant-congregation coordination, electoral-circuit reorganization, and explanation of electoral versus visitation circuits.

District leadership

District presidents and boards face recircuiting, exception requests, constitutional implications, prior-approval cooperation, and partner-church communication.

Concordia universities

The session placed strong attention on governance training, program authority, faculty and presidential prior approval, chapel, and Lutheran identity.

International church relations

Resolutions 5-04 and 5-15 showed that fellowship is neither sentimental nor disposable. It includes confession, accountability, patience, reconciliation, and honest disagreement.

Evangelism and mission

LWML and LHM provided the clearest outward-facing witness through Scripture, mercy, media, congregational connection, and international partnership.

17. Kingdom over Castle Ministry Analysis

Kingdom over Castle is a project ministry lens, not an official convention term. The question is whether structures serve Christ's Gospel and equip congregations, or whether institutional maintenance becomes the controlling purpose.

Action or Discussion	Connection	Partnership Implication
LWML and LHM	Direct	Resources moved outward through relationships, local ministries, communication, mercy, and Gospel proclamation.
Resolution 8-04A	Direct	More accessible Confessions resources may equip congregations, pastors, students, and international partners.
Resolution 8-02A	Mixed	A property or insurance mechanism may serve congregations, but expanding authority requires notice, comment, transparency, and limits.
Resolution 9-12	Reasonable but indirect	LCEF redevelopment services may help congregations use property for mission, provided property remains a servant rather than the mission itself.
Resolution 9-13	Mixed	Uniform parameters promote representation and stewardship; controlled exceptions recognize local mission realities.

Action or Discussion	Connection	Partnership Implication
Resolution 9-15	Direct	The substitute preserved congregational participation rather than consolidating the presidential vote among convention delegates.
Resolutions 5-04 and 5-15	Direct, with relational caution	Faithful bridge-building names real disagreements while seeking reconciliation under a common confession.
University resolutions	Direct	The Concordias serve students, families, congregations, and church-worker formation. Accountability should strengthen confession and vocation, not merely preserve institutions.

18. What Delegates Should Be Thinking About

Questions About Faithfulness

- Does Lutheran identity begin with Christ, His Gospel, Scripture, and the Confessions, or with institutional culture?
- Does worship variety remain genuinely responsible and confessionally faithful?
- Are partner-church concerns being addressed with both truth and patience?
- Does governance language distinguish divine doctrine from human arrangement?

Questions About Governance and Procedure

- What becomes effective immediately upon adoption?
- What still requires congregational ratification?
- What threshold applies to the vote actually before the assembly?
- Is a substitute replacing the main resolution or merely amending it?
- Who has authority to grant an exception, and how is that authority accountable?

Questions About Mission and Ministry

- Will LCEF real-estate work help congregations pursue mission?
- Will Confessions resources become genuinely accessible?
- Will presidential-election participation extend beyond administrative reminders?
- Are universities forming students for faithful Christian vocation?
- Do fellowship resolutions strengthen shared witness or create additional distance?

Questions About Stewardship and Implementation

- What will expanded CPS and LCEF services cost?
- Who bears the risk?
- How will congregations comment before new responsibilities are assigned?
- What reporting will be public?
- Can assigned entities complete multiple new studies without overloading staff?

Questions About Unity and Life Together

- Can the LCMS acknowledge its own communication failures while holding a partner church accountable?
- Can disagreement be public without becoming contemptuous?
- Can efficient procedure coexist with minority rights?
- Can trust be built through transparency rather than demanded through slogans?

19. What Delegates Should Pray About

For fidelity to Christ and His Word

Lord Jesus, keep every resolution, institution, and leader beneath Your Word. Guard us from confusing our structures with Your kingdom.

For repentance and forgiveness

Merciful Father, forgive pride, slander, secrecy, stubbornness, factionalism, and careless speech. Teach us to forgive as we have been forgiven in Christ.

For convention procedure

Grant patience and clarity to the chair, parliamentarians, delegates, and staff. Where mistakes occur, bring honest correction without humiliation or defensiveness.

For congregational participation

Give congregations diligence in maintaining records, participating in elections, and carrying their responsibilities in Synod.

For partner churches

Preserve fellowship in the truth. Give courage to address error, humility to hear correction, and perseverance in reconciliation.

For universities

Keep the Concordias faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. Bless students, faculty, regents, presidents, campus pastors, and families.

For mission partners

Bless the women of the LWML, Lutheran Hour Ministries, missionaries, mercy workers, and those who hear Christ through their service.

For those facing death

Comfort mourners with the Word preached at Matins: Jesus stops death. Give the Church confidence that Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will raise His people.

20. Preparing for Thursday, July 23, 2026

Business carried forward

At lunch, Resolutions 5-15 and 7-07A were pending. Both were completed Wednesday afternoon and should not be treated as Thursday unfinished business. The issue most directly connected to Wednesday morning that remained for Thursday was corrective treatment of Bylaw 4.2.4 concerning district-president installations.

Wednesday afternoon development affecting Thursday

Committee 10 returned and added "as determined by the Synod President" after "extenuating circumstance(s)." The minutes state that this required ratification in Session 9 under Bylaw 7.1.1(a).¹⁸

Confirmed Thursday agenda

Today's Business Issue 6 printed an adopted schedule and a shorter presidential proposal. Delegates needed to listen for the chair's formal order establishing which timetable controlled.¹⁹

Adopted Schedule	President's Proposed Shorter 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, and 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	

Documents delegates should review

- Today's Business Issue 6.
- Thursday consent calendar.
- Resolution 10-08 and the exact Bylaw 4.2.4 language.
- Any remaining election slate.
- Mercy and National Witness resolutions.
- Final minutes and action report.

Resolution 10-08 questions

- What ratification is required, and when does it occur?
- Does "as determined by the Synod President" create sole discretion?
- Does consultation, explanation, or review accompany the determination?
- Is Thursday acting on a new resolution or ratifying Wednesday's amendment?

Practical preparation

- Be seated before the consent calendar.
- Keep the voting device active until adjournment.
- Do not assume elections are complete unless the chair confirms it.
- Keep the exact text of Resolution 10-08 open.

- Know which schedule is operative.
- Ask one narrow question at a time.
- Remember that resolutions not reached before adjournment die.

Thursday watch

Time pressure will be real. Delegates should distinguish necessary action from desirable action, identify the exact pending question, and resist both needless delay and careless haste.

21. Five-Part Closing Summary

Five Most Important Official Actions

- Resolution 10-05A was restored to adopted status through the chair's ruling.
- Resolution 9-15 preserved congregational election of the Synod president.
- Resolution 9-14A advanced a constitutional safeguard for special district conventions.
- Resolution 9-13 adopted new electoral-circuit parameters with an exception process.
- Resolution 7-06A strengthened university worship requirements and passed 806-83.

Five Most Significant Procedural Moments

- The parliamentarian publicly corrected the 10-05A error.
- Two standing-rule amendments failed because of their thresholds.
- Resolution 5-12 narrowly remained on the consent calendar.
- The convention used the substitute-resolution process on 9-18 and 9-15.
- Orders of the day interrupted both 5-15 and 7-07A.

Five Most Significant Ministry Implications

- Congregations retained direct participation in the presidential election.
- Universities received stronger worship and identity accountability.
- Partner-church fellowship will receive continued theological and relational work.
- LCEF and CPS received clarified tools that may help congregations with property and insurance.
- Wider access to the Lutheran Confessions may strengthen catechesis and international witness.

Five Questions Every Delegate Should Carry into Thursday

- Which Thursday schedule controls?
- What ratification is required for Resolution 10-08?
- What authority does "as determined by the Synod President" create?
- Which consent items deserve separate consideration?
- What unfinished business must be completed before adjournment?

Five Matters for Prayer

- Fidelity to Christ and His Word.
- Humility and forgiveness after procedural mistakes.
- Wisdom for congregations, districts, and Synod officers.
- Faithful university formation.
- Unity in doctrine, love, and mission with partner churches.

22. One-Page Thursday Morning Briefing

Wednesday Morning in One Paragraph

Wednesday morning opened with Vice-President Benjamin Ball preaching that Jesus alone stops death. The convention corrected Tuesday's mistaken reconsideration of Resolution 10-05A, rejected efforts to limit reconsideration and shorten debate, adopted a six-item consent calendar, received LWML and Lutheran Hour Ministries reports, completed major Finance and Structure resolutions, preserved congregational election of the Synod president through Resolution 9-15, advanced constitutional provisions for special district conventions, adopted new electoral-circuit standards with an exception process, addressed partner-church concerns, strengthened university worship requirements, and recessed with Resolutions 5-15 and 7-07A pending.

Decisions and Results

- 10-05A stood adopted.
- Rule 26 amendment failed 463-384.
- Rule 23 amendment failed 279-578.
- Removal of 5-12 failed 129-739.
- HotChalk resolution failed 408-470.
- 9-14A passed 887-24.
- 9-13 exception amendment passed 489-411.
- 9-15 substitute passed 617-272.
- 9-18 was declined.
- 7-06A passed 806-83 as amended.

Voting and Procedural Notes

- A bylaw amendment may take effect immediately.
- A majority of ballots cast may still be insufficient.
- Consent-calendar removal uses a threshold minority.
- A substitute displaces the original main motion when adopted.
- Advisory delegates cannot make motions.
- Constitutional amendments require congregational ratification.

What to Watch Thursday

- Which schedule controls.
- Resolution 10-08.
- Consent calendar.
- Mercy and National Witness.
- Remaining elections.
- Final unfinished business.
- What dies at adjournment.

Prayer Focus

Lord Jesus Christ, You stopped death by Your death and resurrection. Give Your Church wisdom, courage, repentance, patience, and joy. Let every final action serve Your Gospel and the people You purchased with Your blood. Amen.

23. Verification Report

Verification completed

- Reviewed the full uploaded Wednesday morning transcript.
- Reviewed the official Session 7 minutes.
- Identified the worship opening, formal business, and lunch recess.
- Included all major agenda categories and every identifiable main motion.
- Accounted for amendments, withdrawals, rulings, and completed votes.
- Distinguished numerical votes from voice votes and procedural votes from policy votes.
- Distinguished substitute consideration from substitute adoption.
- Confirmed that no election balloting occurred during the morning.
- Identified 5-15 and 7-07A as unfinished at the morning cutoff.
- Used Session 8 minutes only to update their later status for Thursday.
- Did not infer counts from percentages where official counts were unavailable.
- Identified transcript errors rather than silently trusting them.

Items That Could Not Be Verified

Exact wall-clock end of Session 7: The transcript provides recording time, but the minutes do not record an exact recess time.

Numerical totals for voice votes: No tally was reported.

Exact adopted text of every consent-calendar resolution: The minutes identify titles and source pages, but the full texts are distributed across Today's Business issues.

Complete declined-overture list in Resolution 9-17A: The minutes confirm adoption but do not reproduce the entire list in the excerpt used.

Complete final text of Resolution 9-13: The restored exception is confirmed, but the full adopted text should be checked in the Proceedings.

Implementation costs: No final cost was announced for 8-02A, 8-04A, 9-12, or university protocol work.

Final congregational ratification of 9-14A: The process occurs after convention.

Which Thursday schedule ultimately governed: Issue 6 printed an adopted schedule and a shorter presidential proposal. The chair's Thursday order was needed to establish the operative timetable.

Full Footnotes and Sources

All source notes used in the body are listed below in numerical order. The official minutes control convention actions. The transcript supplies chronology, debate, and atmosphere.

1. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, "2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 7 and 8," Session 7, Wednesday a.m., July 22, 2026, p. 1, Session 7 identification, Matins, and the opening ruling on Resolution 10-05A.
2. "Transcript - 07/22/26 Morning Session," uploaded convention-session transcript, recording time approximately 0:11-4:07, complete Wednesday morning chronology from Matins through the lunch recess.
3. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, "2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 7 and 8," Session 7, Wednesday a.m., July 22, 2026, p. 1, the ruling that Tuesday reconsideration of Resolution 10-05A was null and void, credentials, standing-rule votes, and consent-calendar action.
4. "Transcript - 07/22/26 Morning Session," uploaded convention-session transcript, recording time 15:52-34:51, Luke 7:11-17 reading, sermon, prayers, and conclusion of Matins.
5. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, "2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 7 and 8," Session 7, Wednesday a.m., July 22, 2026, p. 1, 949 voting delegates, 161 advisory delegates, 170 advisory representatives, and 174 special guests and others.
6. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, "2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 7 and 8," Session 7, Wednesday a.m., July 22, 2026, p. 1, Wednesday consent-calendar contents, failed removal of Resolution 5-12, and adoption of the full calendar.
7. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, "2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 7 and 8," Session 7, Wednesday a.m., July 22, 2026, p. 1-2, LWML grant figures, Kenyan ministry testimony, and Lutheran Hour Ministries global outreach report.
8. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, "2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 7 and 8," Session 7, Wednesday a.m., July 22, 2026, p. 2, Resolutions 8-04A, 8-02A, 8-07, 8-01, and the failed HotChalk floor resolution.
9. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, "2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 7 and 8," Session 7, Wednesday a.m., July 22, 2026, p. 2-3, Resolutions 9-12, 9-14A, 9-13, 9-18/9-15, 9-10A, and 9-17A.
10. "Transcript - 07/22/26 Morning Session," uploaded convention-session transcript, recording time 1:28-1:42, debate on electoral-circuit parameters, restored exception language, and the advisory-delegate ruling.
11. "Transcript - 07/22/26 Morning Session," uploaded convention-session transcript, recording time 1:42-2:05, substitute-resolution procedure and debate over congregational versus convention election of the Synod president.
12. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, "2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 7 and 8," Session 7, Wednesday a.m., July 22, 2026, p. 3, Resolution 5-04, Resolution 5-15, adopted and failed amendments, and the pending status at lunch.
13. "Transcript - 07/22/26 Morning Session," uploaded convention-session transcript, recording time 2:25-2:47, debate on the AALC, reconciliation, mutual accountability, and the pending good-faith amendment.
14. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, "2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 7 and 8," Session 7, Wednesday a.m., July 22, 2026, p. 3, convention essay by Rev. Kirk M. Clayton and response by Rev. C. Bryan Wolfmüller, full texts reserved for the Proceedings.
15. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, "2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 7 and 8," Session 7, Wednesday a.m., July 22, 2026, p. 3-4, Resolutions 7-01 through 7-07A, including the amendment and vote on Resolution 7-06A.
16. "Transcript - 07/22/26 Morning Session," uploaded convention-session transcript, recording time 3:46-4:01, debate on university worship, the change from should to must, withdrawal of a variety amendment, and final electronic vote.
17. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, "2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 7 and 8," Session 7, Wednesday a.m., July 22, 2026, Session 8, Wednesday p.m., July 22, 2026, p. 6, later adoption of the good-faith amendment to Resolution 5-15, adoption of Resolution 5-15 as twice amended, and adoption of Resolution 7-07A.
18. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, "2026 Convention Minutes - Sessions 7 and 8," Session 7, Wednesday a.m., July 22, 2026, Session 8, p. 8, Committee 10 amendment to Bylaw 4.2.4 adding "as determined by the Synod President" and notation that ratification was required in Session 9.
19. Today's Business, Issue 6, Thursday, July 23, 2026, adopted schedule, proposed shorter schedule, consent calendar, and Resolution 10-08. Source detail not provided.

Source hierarchy used

- 1 Official convention minutes for final actions, vote totals, election results, and dispositions.
- 2 Wednesday morning transcript for chronology, debate, oral explanations, and atmosphere.
- 3 Officially identified Today's Business materials for resolution titles, schedule, and published wording.
- 4 Careful inference, explicitly labeled, for practical and ministry implications.

Final Gospel Frame

Wednesday morning began with a widow walking behind the body of her only son. She could not stop death. Neither can we.

Then Jesus spoke:

"Young man, I say to you, arise."

Luke 7:14

That is the Church's hope after every vote, every ruling, every amendment, every mistake, every institution, and every convention.

Christ is risen indeed

No resolution raises the dead. No bylaw forgives sinners. No election preserves the Church. Christ crucified and risen preserves His Church through His Word and Sacraments. Convention work is faithful when it serves that Word, supports Christ's people, guards the confession, and clears the way for the Gospel to be proclaimed into the harvest.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.