

LCMS Convention Afternoon Session Analysis

Monday, July 20, 2026

Evening Delegate Briefing and Preparation for Tuesday, July 21

Source and Verification Note

This report is based on a complete review of the Monday afternoon session transcript, from the recording's inactive opening minutes through the concluding Vespers and blessing.

The following source order was used:

1. Available official LCMS convention reporting and published voting results.
2. Today's Business, official schedules, proposed resolutions, and financial estimates.
3. The session transcript for chronology, debate, oral motions, voice votes, rulings, and presentations.
4. The Convention Workbook, Handbook, and nominee publication for background and identity verification.
5. Clearly labeled analysis and reasonable implications.

The LCMS resolution-status page warns that live status information remains preliminary until the details are published and approved in convention minutes. At the time of this analysis, the convention website listed approved minutes only through July 19, not July 20.

1. Session Information

Item	Information
Session	Monday afternoon convention session
Convention day	Second full day of convention business
Date	Monday, July 20, 2026
Scheduled session	1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mountain Standard Time
Formal afternoon prayer	Approximately 1:30 p.m.
Business began	Approximately 1:52 p.m.
Business concluded	Approximately 5:43 p.m.
Final blessing	Approximately 5:57 p.m.

Item	Information
Approximate formal duration	4 hours, 28 minutes
Presiding officer	LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
Opening Scripture	Romans 5
Opening Gospel theme	"Christ changes everything"
Major categories	National Offering, floor nominations, international mission, pastoral formation, parliamentary rules, Synod administration, church planting, campus ministry, youth ministry
Conclusion	Business ended at the scheduled order of the day, followed by Vespers. No separate motion to adjourn was recorded.

The recording contains approximately thirteen minutes of inactive or pre-service material before formal prayer begins. The clock times above are calculated from the scheduled 1:30 p.m. opening and should be treated as approximate. The official livestream schedule confirms the Monday afternoon session was scheduled from 1:30 to 6:00 p.m.

2. Delegate Briefing

What happened Monday afternoon?

The assembly completed a remarkably broad range of business. Delegates expanded several election ballots through floor nominations, settled three major Specific Ministry Pastor resolutions, changed how motions to close debate will operate for the rest of the convention, enacted substantial changes to Synod's executive and corporate governance structures, and adopted resolutions supporting church planting, campus ministry, and research on ministry among youth and young adults.

Five consequential developments

1. The convention reaffirmed the present SMP framework

Resolution 6-06A passed with 80.59%. An amendment that would have exempted the SMP program from its age restriction failed, 45.7% to 54.3%. The present age policy therefore remained intact. Official LCMS reporting confirms both the resolution's adoption and the rejection of the attempt to remove the 40-year age limit.

2. The convention encouraged SMP pastors toward General Pastor Certification

Resolution 6-07A passed with 88.58%. It encourages SMP pastors to pursue General Pastor Certification, Residential Alternate Route formation, or an M.Div., and encourages congregations, districts, pastors, and seminaries to help cover tuition and fees.

3. Delegates repaired an important parliamentary problem

A special standing-rule amendment passed with 67.06%. For the remainder of the convention, a motion to close debate applies only to the immediately pending question. A delegate can no longer call the question on an amendment and, with that one motion, automatically close debate on both the amendment and the underlying resolution.

That may sound like parliamentary plumbing, but plumbing matters when the kitchen is flooding.

4. The convention enacted significant administrative restructuring

The assembly:

- clarified conflicts-of-interest expectations through Resolution 9-02A;
- combined the bylaw-required chief financial officer and chief administrative officer roles into a chief operating officer through Resolution 9-08;
- transferred direct oversight of communications and fundraising from the chief mission officer to the chief operating officer through Resolution 9-09; and
- adopted the lengthy Resolution 9-11 governing instrumental entities, special-purpose entities, passive investment entities, and agencies of Synod.

Official LCMS reporting confirms all four actions.

5. Mission-focused resolutions closed the afternoon

Delegates approved resolutions supporting:

- congregation-based church planting;
- full-time Synod staff support for campus ministry; and
- a rigorous study of Millennials, Generation Z, and Generation Alpha to guide youth and young-adult ministry.

These were adopted by voice vote. No numerical totals were announced.

What remained unfinished?

No main motion was left pending on the floor when Vespers began. However:

- Floor Committee 1 had additional business that had not yet been presented.
- Floor Committees 6 and 9 also had remaining resolutions for later sessions.

- The nominees added Monday still had to undergo paperwork and eligibility verification before appearing on later ballots.
- The eligibility of Rev. Dr. Steven C. Briel for the Commission on Worship parish-pastor position was explicitly unresolved.
- Elections for boards, CTCR, boards of regents, the Commission on Worship, and other Synodwide entities were scheduled for Tuesday.
- Resolution 9-11's application to district church extension funds remained a significant implementation concern even though the main resolution was adopted.

What should delegates know before Tuesday?

Bring the nominee biographies, review the newly enlarged ballots, confirm any corrections in Tuesday's Today's Business, and pay close attention to whether the Office of the Secretary removes any floor nominee because of missing paperwork or eligibility. Tuesday also includes scheduled work from Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution, Pastoral Ministry and Seminaries, Theology and Church Relations, and several election rounds. The schedule remains subject to adjustment by the chair.

3. Session at a Glance

Transcript Time	Approx. Clock Time	Agenda Item	Action or Development	Result	Why It Matters
0:13	1:30 p.m.	Midday Prayer	Romans 5 and Gospel proclamation	Worship	Framed all convention action under reconciliation and justification in Christ
0:30	1:47 p.m.	National Offering	Offering totals and grant purpose announced	Informational	Supports family, youth, campus, school, and next-generation ministry
0:35	1:52 p.m.	Minutes	Minutes approved as printed	Approved without objection	Established official continuation of business
0:36-1:02	1:53-2:19 p.m.	Floor nominations	Numerous names added to boards, CTCR, regents, and Commission on Worship ballots	Added by voice or electronic vote	Expanded Tuesday election choices

Transcript Time	Approx. Clock Time	Agenda Item	Action or Development	Result	Why It Matters
1:04	2:22 p.m.	International mission	Puerto Rico mission and theological education presentation	Report received	Illustrated church planting, partnership, and missionary formation
1:21	2:38 p.m.	Resolution 6-06A	SMP parameters and age amendment	Amendment failed; resolution adopted	Retained current SMP framework and age restriction
2:06	3:23 p.m.	Resolution 6-07A	Encourage SMP pastors toward GPC	Adopted, 88.58%	Encourages continuing formation and collaborative funding
2:01-2:05	3:18-3:22 p.m.	Resolution 6-08	Replace "supervision" with "oversight"	Adopted by voice	Clarifies mentor's role without confusing it with ecclesiastical supervision
2:05	3:22 p.m.	Procedural/pastoral concern	Delegate sought corporate confession regarding earlier treatment of a speaker	Chair ruled order of the day	Directed concern toward Matthew 18 and personal reconciliation
2:07	3:24 p.m.	LCMS Foundation	Gift planning and endowment report	Informational	Demonstrated long-term stewardship opportunities
2:16	3:33 p.m.	WELS greeting	Mark Schroeder discussed relations and theological conversations	Informational	Signaled ongoing confessional dialogue without declaring fellowship restored
2:30	3:48 p.m.	Standing rule	Previous question limited to immediately pending question	Adopted, 67.06%	Protects separate debate on amendments and main resolutions

Transcript Time	Approx. Clock Time	Agenda Item	Action or Development	Result	Why It Matters
2:35	3:52 p.m.	Resolution 9-02A	Conflicts of interest	Adopted, 95.01%	Strengthens disclosure and accountability
2:48	4:05 p.m.	Resolution 9-08	Create chief operating officer role	Amendment failed; resolution adopted	Consolidates executive administrative roles
3:05	4:22 p.m.	Resolution 9-09	Reassign CMO responsibilities	Adopted by voice	Moves communications and fundraising oversight
3:12	4:29 p.m.	Resolution 9-11	Corporate and agency entity framework	Adopted, 73.39%	Major permanent bylaw and governance action
3:30	4:47 p.m.	Church planting presentation	ONM highlighted plants and partnerships	Informational	Provided practical context for Resolution 1-07A
4:06	5:23 p.m.	Resolution 1-07A	Congregation-based church planting	Adopted by voice	Encourages parish-level planting and district partnership
4:13	5:30 p.m.	Resolution 1-12	Campus ministry support	Adopted by voice	Restores a full-time campus-ministry support role
4:19	5:36 p.m.	Resolution 1-09A	Youth and young-adult research	Amendment withdrawn; resolution adopted	Orders research and ministry guidance for younger generations
4:26	5:43 p.m.	Order of the day	Business concluded	No pending main motion	Remaining committee business carried to later sessions
4:31-4:41	5:49-5:58 p.m.	Vespers	Ezekiel 37, prayers, blessing	Worship	Closed the session in resurrection hope

4. Full Chronological Session Narrative

A. Midday Prayer and Gospel framing

The afternoon formally opened with prayer, hymnody, and Romans 5. The reading emphasized that Christ died for sinners while they were still enemies of God, bringing justification and reconciliation through His blood.

The homiletical theme was simple and strong: **Christ changes everything**. Human beings do not merely need improvement, better systems, or stronger institutions. They need reconciliation to God. Adam brought sin, condemnation, and death; Christ brings grace, justification, and life.

That Gospel frame matters for the session that followed. The convention was about to debate routes to pastoral formation, executive authority, corporate structures, financial stewardship, and ministry strategy. None of those things creates the Church. Christ crucified and risen creates and preserves His Church through His Word and Sacraments.

B. National Offering report

The national offering was described as supporting matching grants for congregations, districts, and Recognized Service Organizations serving families, youth, young adults, children, campus ministries, parents, and schools.

The report announced:

- A \$1 million goal.
- A \$500,000 foundational or seed gift.
- Approximately \$60,750.11 received in the opening-service offering.
- Approximately \$742,522.11 received or committed to date.
- Continued giving through the 2026-2029 triennium.
- A report on the offering's use anticipated for the 2029 convention.

The transcript's pronunciation of the foundation or donor name attached to the seed gift is uncertain and should not be treated as verified. The convention website confirms that the national offering supports local work through congregations, districts, circuits, and related ministries focused on the next generation.

C. Approval of minutes

The minutes were approved as printed without objection.

This was an approval by unanimous consent, not a counted vote and not necessarily proof that every delegate affirmatively voted yes.

D. Floor nominations

The Committee for Convention Nominations explained that:

- nominations normally came from the published eligible pool;
- some pools could be opened by the assembly;
- each nominee needed a nomination form and signed consent;
- forms had to be received before nominations closed;
- Commission on Worship nominations were divided into ordained parish pastor, commissioned parish musician or teacher, and lay categories;
- biographical information would be made available before voting.

The nomination period produced the following actions.

1. Doss Tychicus

A delegate nominated Mr. Doss Tychicus for the Board for International Mission. The transcript pronounced the surname approximately “Tikas” and identified West Covina, California. The published nominee pool lists **Doss Tychicus of Baldwin Park, California**. The difference may reflect residence versus church location, but the official spelling should control. He was added by voice vote.

2. Rev. David P. Ramirez, CTSFW Board of Regents

Ramirez was nominated for the Concordia Theological Seminary Board of Regents.

The chair initially declared him added following a voice vote. A division was immediately requested, producing an electronic vote:

- Yes: 83.91%
- No: 16.09%

He was added to the ballot. This action did not elect him.

3. Thomas J. Winterstein, Commission on Worship

Winterstein was nominated in the director-of-parish-music category.

Because he was not in the eligible pool, the assembly first voted to open the Commission on Worship pool. The chair declared the motion carried at 66.47%.

The assembly then voted separately on Winterstein:

- Added: 72.88%

Verification concern: The chair’s earlier explanation indicated that opening a pool required a two-thirds vote. A result of 66.47% appears arithmetically below 66.67%. The chair nevertheless declared the pool

open. The official minutes or a clarification from the Office of the Secretary is needed to determine whether the displayed percentage, stated threshold, or transcript was incomplete.

4. Rev. Dr. Harald George Tomesch

Tomesch, from Slinger, Wisconsin, was nominated for the Concordia Seminary Board of Regents in the ordained category.

- Added: 81.68%

5. Rev. Dr. Theodore M. R. Hopkins

Hopkins, identified with Saline, Michigan, was nominated for the CTCR in the parish-pastor category.

- Added: 76.29%

The chair incorrectly said he was added “to the pool,” but the operative action was to add him to the ballot.

6. Rev. Dr. Steven P. Mueller

Mueller was nominated for the Commission on Worship in the ordained parish-pastor category.

The committee confirmed that he was a parish pastor. He was added by voice vote.

7. Rev. Daniel Clifton Ross

Ross, identified in the transcript with Mustang, Oklahoma, was nominated for the Commission on Worship as an ordained parish pastor.

The nominee publication lists Daniel Clifton Ross of Yukon, Oklahoma. This may be another residence or ministry-location distinction. He was added by voice vote.

8. Rev. Brent W. Kuhlman

The transcript garbled this name as “Brent Kman” or “Brett Kleman.” The published pool includes Rev. Brent W. Kuhlman of Murdock, Nebraska, which best matches the nomination.

He was nominated for the Commission on Worship and added by voice vote.

9. Janis G. McDaniels

McDaniels was nominated for the Board for National Mission.

The transcript alternated between Janice and Janis. The published nominee pool lists **Mrs. Janis G. McDaniels of Kernersville, North Carolina**. She was added by voice vote.

10. Rev. Jason Casper

Casper, identified with La Grange, Texas, was nominated for the Commission on Worship as an ordained parish pastor.

He was added by voice vote, subject to receipt of paperwork.

11. Rev. Dr. Steven C. Briel

Briel was nominated for the Commission on Worship in the ordained parish-pastor category and was added by voice vote.

Delegates then questioned whether he met the category requirement because he was believed to be retired or emeritus rather than presently serving a parish. The chair and secretary promised follow-up.

His final eligibility remained unresolved in the transcript.

12. Rev. David P. Ramirez, CTCR

Ramirez was separately nominated for the CTCR.

He was added by voice vote. This was distinct from his earlier nomination for the CTSFW Board of Regents.

13. Joseph L. Olson

Olson was nominated for the CTCR as a lay member.

The transcript pronounced the surname "Olsen," while the published pool lists **Joseph L. Olson of Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin**. He was added by voice vote.

14. Paul Solic

Solic was nominated for the Commission on Worship in the commissioned-minister or director-of-parish-music category.

A question arose about whether he served in a parish. A delegate stated that Solic served St. Matthew's in Bloomington, Illinois. He was added by voice vote.

The exact spelling, ministry position, and parish should be confirmed from the later candidate sheet.

15. Michael Hollmann or Hollman

A lay nominee named Michael Hollmann or Hollman was added to the Commission on Worship ballot by voice vote.

The transcription of the spelling is incomplete. The later official candidate list is needed.

16. Darren Kanan

A commissioned-minister nominee whose name was pronounced approximately “Darren Kanan” was added to the Commission on Worship ballot by voice vote.

The chair repeatedly misheard the name, and the transcript does not provide a reliable location or exact spelling. The official candidate list is required.

17. Rev. Sean Smith

After nominations were initially declared closed without objection, a delegate who had entered the microphone queue was permitted to make one final nomination.

Sean Smith, identified with Grace in Clarksville, Tennessee, and the Mid-South District, was nominated for the Commission on Worship in the ordained parish-pastor category.

The chair accidentally referred to him as “Mr. Clark,” but then clarified that Smith was added without audible opposition. Nominations were then closed “for real.”

Meaning of these actions

None of these individuals was elected during the nomination period.

The actions only:

- opened a pool;
- added nominees to a ballot;
- or provisionally accepted floor nominations.

Every floor nomination remained dependent on:

- completed paperwork;
- signed consent;
- correct category;
- eligibility;
- and final processing by the Office of the Secretary.

E. International Mission presentation

Rev. Sergio Maida described LCMS mission work in Puerto Rico, including:

- congregation planting;
- mercy ministry;
- theological education;
- Concordia Seminary El Reformador;
- alliance missionaries;
- FORO-style partnerships;

- and the use of digital and cultural points of contact for proclaiming Christ.

A memorable illustration involved connections made through a Minecraft community. The point was not that Minecraft had become a sacrament, thank heaven, but that missionaries were meeting people where they were and directing them toward preaching, catechesis, and congregational life.

No convention action was taken.

F. Resolution 6-06A

Title

To Affirm and Support Established Parameters of Specific Ministry Pastor Program

Purpose

The resolution affirmed the SMP program while emphasizing:

- the importance and priority of residential formation;
- the contextual and restricted character of SMP service;
- approved program policies;
- and the equal dignity of pastors serving in the one divinely instituted office.

Age-restriction amendment

A delegate moved to add language exempting the age restriction from the program policies being affirmed.

The stated concern was that faithful, qualified men below the normal age threshold may be needed in contexts where residential study is impractical.

Opponents and committee representatives cited:

- greater attrition among younger SMP students;
- an exception process involving district presidents and the Council of Presidents;
- the residential and alternate-route options available to younger men;
- and the program's original contextual purpose.

The debate included reported attrition figures of approximately:

- 25% among men in their twenties and early thirties;
- 6% among men fifty and older;
- approximately 7% in the residential M.Div. route.

These statistics were spoken from the floor and should be checked against an official seminary or SMP report before being reused independently.

Votes

Motion to close debate on both the amendment and main motion:

- Yes: 77%
- No: 23%

Age-restriction amendment:

- Yes: 45.7%
- No: 54.3%
- Result: Failed

Resolution 6-06A:

- Yes: 80.59%
- No: 19.41%
- Result: Adopted

Official LCMS reporting confirms the final resolution vote and that the attempt to remove the 40-year age limit was not approved.

G. Resolution 6-07A

Title

To Encourage and Support Specific Ministry Pastors to Pursue General Pastor Certification

Purpose

The resolution encourages SMP pastors to continue their theological formation through:

- General Pastor Certification;
- Residential Alternate Route;
- or the M.Div. route.

It also encourages:

- pastors;
- congregations;
- districts;
- seminaries;
- and other partners

to work together to cover tuition and fees and accommodate the schedules of working pastors.

Debate

Supporters emphasized:

- lifelong learning;
- broader preparation for serving beyond a restricted context;
- the benefits of deeper theological study;
- and the need for shared financial responsibility.

Questions and concerns included:

- the length of an SMP-to-GPC pathway;
- whether the structure could imply different classes of pastor;
- comparison with earlier practical pastoral programs;
- and what academic or competency level GPC actually represents.

The committee stressed that the office remains one office and that additional certification expands eligibility and mobility rather than creating a different divine office.

Votes

Motion to close debate:

- Adopted by voice vote

Resolution 6-07A:

- Yes: 88.58%
- No: 11.42%
- Result: Adopted

Official LCMS reporting confirms the result.

H. Resolution 6-08

Title

To Amend Bylaw 2.13.1 to Clarify Terminology for Specific Ministry Pastor Mentorship and Oversight

Purpose

The amendment replaces or clarifies “supervision” with “oversight” in references to the relationship between an SMP pastor and his pastor-mentor.

Secretary Sias explained that “ecclesiastical supervision” is a technical bylaw concept belonging to designated ecclesiastical supervisors. An SMP mentor offers guidance, mentorship, support, and oversight, but does not possess the district president’s canonical authority.

Vote

- Adopted by voice vote
- No numerical result announced

Official LCMS reporting confirms the action and rationale.

I. Concern regarding Christian reconciliation

A delegate asserted that the assembly had sinned against an earlier speaker and suggested a public confession and absolution.

The chair did not entertain a motion. He instructed the delegate to speak first with:

- the floor committee chairman;
- the district president;
- and the individual concerned,

citing the personal reconciliation pattern of Matthew 18. He then returned to the order of the day.

This was a ruling about procedure and pastoral handling. It was not a convention finding that sin had or had not occurred, and no formal act of discipline, confession, or reconciliation was adopted.

J. LCMS Foundation presentation

The LCMS Foundation described:

- charitable gift planning;
- donor-advised arrangements;
- endowments;
- planned gifts;
- and sustained distributions to congregations and ministries.

Reported examples and figures included:

- an Iowa District West endowment supporting approximately \$320,000 in annual ministry;
- approximately \$190 million in future ministry gifts created or facilitated during the previous year;
- and approximately \$70 million distributed to more than 1,000 LCMS-related organizations in the current fiscal year.

These figures came from an institutional presentation, not from audited convention financial statements.

No convention action was taken.

K. WELS greeting

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod President Mark Schroeder reviewed:

- the historical relationship between the LCMS and WELS;
- the suspension of fellowship in 1961;
- ongoing areas of agreement;
- remaining doctrinal differences;
- approximately fourteen years of informal theological conversations;
- and areas of practical cooperation.

The greeting did not declare restored altar and pulpit fellowship and did not ask the convention to take action.

L. Special standing-rule amendment

A delegate moved language drawn from a previous special standing rule:

A motion to close debate, "I call the question," shall apply only to the immediately pending question.

Purpose

Under the procedure used earlier, a single motion for the previous question could close debate on:

- a pending amendment;
- and the underlying main resolution.

The amendment separated those questions. After its adoption:

- calling the question on an amendment closes debate only on the amendment;
- after the amendment is resolved, the assembly may still debate the main resolution;
- a second previous-question motion would be needed to close debate on the main resolution.

Debate

Supporters argued that this protects delegates' opportunity to discuss the final form of a resolution after an amendment is settled.

Opponents argued that the existing procedure was efficient and that the body had already adopted its standing rules.

Vote

- Yes: 67.06%
- No: 32.94%
- Result: Adopted

A two-thirds threshold was required, and this result exceeded it, though not by enough to make anyone's blood pressure relax.

M. Floor Committee 9 introduction

Committee Chairman Rev. Justin Panzer reminded the assembly that several Committee 9 resolutions had already been adopted through the morning consent calendar.

Official reporting identifies those adopted consent-calendar resolutions as 9-03 through 9-07. Resolution 9-01A and 9-02A had been removed from consent.

N. Resolution 9-02A

Title

To Amend Bylaws 1.5.1.2-1.5.2 to Clarify Service Expectations and Handling of Conflicts of Interest

Purpose

The resolution clarifies what happens when:

- a conflict of interest appears after a person begins service;
- a member must disclose a conflict;
- a member should abstain;
- confidential material should be withheld;
- or nondisclosure may constitute a breach of duty.

Vote

- Adopted: 95.01%
- Opposition percentage was not orally announced.

Official reporting confirms both the subject and result.

O. Resolution 9-08

Title

To Amend Bylaws to Clarify and Streamline Responsibilities of Appointed Synod Officers

Main action

The resolution combines the bylaw-required offices of:

- chief financial officer;
- and chief administrative officer

into one chief operating officer reporting to the LCMS Board of Directors.

Amendment concerning eligibility

A delegate moved to delete the requirement that the chief operating officer be a layperson.

The amendment would have allowed a rostered pastor or commissioned minister to serve in the role.

Supporters argued that:

- roster status does not prevent administrative competence;
- the best candidate should not be excluded;
- and the role could potentially be filled by a qualified church worker.

Opponents argued that:

- the COO performs primarily temporal, financial, legal, and administrative work;
- the distinction between ecclesiastical and administrative leadership should be preserved;
- and ordained ministers should not be redirected into an office intentionally designed as a lay administrative office.

Votes

Eligibility amendment:

- Yes: 13.14%
- Result: Failed
- Opposition percentage was not announced.

Motion to close debate:

- Adopted by voice vote

Resolution 9-08:

- Adopted by voice vote

Official LCMS reporting confirms that the action combines the CFO and chief administrative officer roles into a chief operating officer reporting to the Board of Directors.

P. Resolution 9-09

Title

To Amend Bylaws to Coordinate Responsibilities of Chief Mission Officer with Other Synod Officers

Purpose

The resolution:

- moves direct oversight of Synod communications and fundraising to the chief operating officer;
- revises several responsibilities assigned to the chief mission officer;
- and aligns the officer structure with Resolution 9-08.

Vote

- Adopted by voice vote
- No debate of substance was recorded.
- No numerical total was announced.

Official LCMS reporting confirms the transfer of communications and fundraising oversight.

Q. Resolution 9-11

Title

To Amend Bylaw Section 1.5, etc., to Unify in the Bylaws and Revise Corporate Formation Requirements for Instrumental Entities of Corporate Synod and Agencies of the Synod

Scope

This was the most structurally complex afternoon resolution.

The committee described it as an effort to:

- gather scattered corporate-formation rules into one bylaw framework;
- recognize legal structures that already exist;
- provide rules for foreign mission entities;
- permit special-purpose entities;
- permit passive investment entities;
- maintain public registration and reporting;
- preserve accountability;
- and enable property or ministry arrangements that may not fit neatly into existing categories.

Official LCMS reporting describes it as a lengthy bylaw addition that codifies existing arrangements and enables some new ministry opportunities.

Committee assurances

The committee argued that the resolution:

- did not centralize ownership of every entity;
- did not create general ascending liability;
- did not permit agencies to engage freely in unrelated commercial activity;

- had been reviewed by legal counsel;
- and had support from major Synod entities.

Concerns raised

Delegates expressed concern about:

- the extraordinary length and complexity of the proposal;
- whether delegates could responsibly evaluate it during limited floor debate;
- possible conflicts with state nonprofit law;
- litigation consequences;
- the absence of direct consultation with district church extension funds;
- and whether classifying a district CEF as an agency of Synod could affect control or ownership.

A delegate explored postponing consideration until additional consultation occurred, but no formal postponement motion was clearly made and seconded.

Secretary's clarification

Secretary Sias stated that:

- a CCM opinion already treated district CEFs as agencies of Synod;
- and the adopted language excluded investor and beneficiary assets from Synod property.

That explanation did not resolve every practical or relational question, particularly whether district CEF leaders had been adequately consulted.

Votes

Motion to close debate:

- Adopted by voice vote

Resolution 9-11:

- Yes: 73.39%
- No: 26.61%
- Result: Adopted

Immediate meaning

The assembly enacted the new bylaw framework. It did not itself:

- transfer every district CEF asset to corporate Synod;
- establish that all possible state-law questions were resolved;
- or complete the later administrative work needed to implement and register entities.

R. National Mission church-planting presentation

The Office of National Mission described:

- 32 church plants in process;
- approximately 60 additional locations preparing to begin;
- congregation-led and district-supported planting;
- team ministry;
- local assessment;
- and Word-and-Sacrament-centered mission.

Examples were drawn from several states and ministry contexts.

The presentation emphasized that planting was not merely opening independent religious startups. Existing congregations, pastors, circuits, districts, and Synod resources were working together to establish sustainable Gospel outposts.

No convention action was taken during the presentation.

S. Resolution 1-07A

Title

The title carried forward from Resolution 1-07 was:

To Increase Church Planting at the Parish Level

Purpose

The revised resolution encouraged:

- congregations to plant preaching stations and daughter congregations;
- circuits and districts to identify underserved locations;
- the Office of National Mission to assist districts;
- districts and Synod partners to multiply available grants;
- establishment of a numerical planting goal for the triennium;
- and continued respect for local district planting processes.

Vote

- Adopted by voice vote.
- At least one audible “no” was heard.
- No numerical total was announced.
- The vote should not be described as unanimous.

T. Resolution 1-12

Title

To Support Campus Ministry

Purpose

The resolution:

- gives thanks for campus ministry workers and congregations;
- identifies campus ministry as a significant mission field;
- encourages continued investment;
- and directs the Board of Directors, working through the Office of National Mission, to restore a full-time staff position supporting campus ministry.

Today's Business estimated an annual cost of approximately \$200,000, plus related travel and incidental costs.

Debate

Supporters emphasized:

- the spiritual vulnerability and openness of college students;
- potential church-worker recruitment;
- young adults' need for Christian community;
- and the strategic importance of university settings.

Questions focused on:

- whether the position would duplicate district work;
- how success would be measured;
- whether a full-time national position was sustainable;
- and what specific services the position would provide.

Votes

Motion to close debate:

- Adopted by voice vote

Resolution 1-12:

- Adopted by voice vote
- No numerical result announced

U. Resolution 1-09A

Title

To Promote Ministry Among Youth and Young Adults

Purpose

The resolution directs or encourages the Office of National Mission and Synod research personnel to conduct or commission rigorous study of:

- Millennials;
- Generation Z;
- Generation Alpha;
- family influence;
- church and school formation;
- digital media;
- peer influence;
- catechesis;
- worship;
- parental support;
- and retention in Lutheran doctrine and congregational life.

The intended result is published findings, practical resources, and strategies for congregations, schools, parents, and ministry leaders.

Proposed amendment

A delegate proposed adding explicit references to:

- the LCMS Youth Gathering;
- and the Hodos Gathering.

The committee stated that the proposed additions were already encompassed by the broader reference to LCMS Youth Ministry.

The mover withdrew the amendment. No vote occurred on it.

Vote

- Resolution 1-09A adopted by voice vote.
- No numerical total announced.

V. Conclusion and Vespers

The order of the day arrived immediately after Resolution 1-09A. The chair concluded business and indicated that Floor Committee 1 would return later.

Vespers followed, centered on Ezekiel 37 and the Lord's promise to give life to dry bones.

The session ended not with institutional triumphalism, but with the confession that God alone raises the dead. That was fitting. Synod can amend bylaws until the ink pot files for worker's compensation, but only the living Word creates faith.

5. Complete Official Action Ledger

A. Administrative, nomination, and procedural actions

Time	Item	Action Type	Question	Voting Method	Result	Immediate Effect	Verification
0:35	Minutes	Approval	Approve minutes as printed	Unanimous consent	Approved	Minutes accepted	Transcript
0:40	Doss Tychicus	Ballot addition	Add to Board for International Mission ballot	Voice	Carried	Provisional ballot addition	Name verified from nominee pool
0:41	David P. Ramirez	Ballot addition	Add to CTSFW Board of Regents ballot	Voice, then division	83.91%-16.09%	Added	Numerical result clear
0:43	Commission on Worship pool	Open pool	Open eligible nomination pool	Electronic	Chair declared carried, 66.47%	Pool treated as open	Threshold discrepancy unresolved
0:44	Thomas J. Winterstein	Ballot addition	Add in director-of-parish-music category	Electronic	72.88%	Added	Subject to paperwork
0:45	Harald G. Tomesch	Ballot addition	Add to CSL Board of Regents	Electronic	81.68%	Added	Verified name
0:47	Theodore M. R. Hopkins	Ballot addition	Add to CTCR	Electronic	76.29%	Added	Verified name

Time	Item	Action Type	Question	Voting Method	Result	Immediate Effect	Verification
0:48	Steven P. Mueller	Ballot addition	Add to Commission on Worship	Voice	Carried	Added	Category confirmed orally
0:49	Daniel Clifton Ross	Ballot addition	Add to Commission on Worship	Voice	Carried	Added	Location variation
0:50	Brent W. Kuhlman	Ballot addition	Add to Commission on Worship	Voice	Carried	Added	Transcript name garbled
0:50	Janis G. McDaniels	Ballot addition	Add to Board for National Mission	Voice	Carried	Added	Spelling verified
0:51	Jason Casper	Ballot addition	Add to Commission on Worship	Voice	Carried	Provisional addition	Paperwork requested
0:52	Steven C. Briel	Ballot addition	Add to Commission on Worship	Voice	Carried	Added provisionally	Eligibility unresolved
0:53	David P. Ramirez	Ballot addition	Add to CTCR	Voice	Carried	Added	Separate from regents nomination
0:54	Joseph L. Olson	Ballot addition	Add to CTCR	Voice	Carried	Added	Transcript said Olsen
0:55	Paul Solic	Ballot addition	Add to Commission on Worship	Voice	Carried	Added provisionally	Parish service required confirmation
0:55	Michael Hollmann/ Hollman	Ballot addition	Add to Commission on Worship	Voice	Carried	Added provisionally	Exact spelling unavailable
0:57	Darren Kanan	Ballot addition	Add to Commission on Worship	Voice	Carried	Added provisionally	Exact spelling unavailable
1:01	Nomination period	Closure	Close nominations	Unanimous consent	Initially closed	One queued delegate still heard	Procedural irregularity harmless if no objection

Time	Item	Action Type	Question	Voting Method	Result	Immediate Effect	Verification
1:02	Sean Smith	Ballot addition	Add to Commission on Worship	Voice	Carried without audible opposition	Added provisionally	Exact candidate sheet needed
1:02	Nominations	Closure	Close nominations	Unanimous consent	Closed	Nomination period ended	Confirmed in transcript
2:05	Reconciliation concern	Chair's ruling	Whether to interrupt order for corporate confession	Chair ruling	Not entertained	Delegate directed to Matthew 18 process	No appeal recorded
2:30	Special standing rule	Standing-rule amendment	Limit previous question to immediate question	Electronic, two-thirds	67.06%-32.94%	Rule changed for remaining sessions	Result clear
4:26	Order of day	Session conclusion	End business and move to Vespers	Chair announced	Business concluded	No pending motion left on floor	No adjournment motion

B. Resolution actions

Time	Resolution	Action	Voting Method	Result	Immediate Effect	Verification
1:57	6-06A	Close debate	Electronic	77%-23%	Debate ended under former rule	Transcript
2:04	6-06A amendment	Remove age restriction from affirmed policies	Electronic	Failed, 45.7%-54.3%	Age restriction retained	Official outcome confirmed
2:05	6-06A	Main resolution	Electronic	Adopted, 80.59%-19.41%	SMP parameters affirmed	Officially reported
2:30	6-07A	Close debate	Voice	Carried	Debate ended	Transcript

Time	Resolution	Action	Voting Method	Result	Immediate Effect	Verification
2:31	6-07A	Main resolution	Electronic	Adopted, 88.58%-11.42%	Continuing certification encouraged	Officially reported
2:04	6-08	Main resolution	Voice	Adopted	"Oversight" replaces or clarifies "supervision"	Officially reported
2:41	9-02A	Main resolution	Electronic	Adopted, 95.01%	Conflict-of-interest rules clarified	Officially reported
2:58	9-08 amendment	Delete layperson requirement for COO	Electronic	Failed, 13.14% yes	COO remains a lay office	Transcript
3:00	9-08	Close debate	Voice	Carried	Debate ended	Transcript
3:02	9-08	Main resolution	Voice	Adopted	CFO and CAO combined into COO	Officially reported
3:06	9-09	Main resolution	Voice	Adopted	Communications and fundraising reassigned	Officially reported
3:42	9-11	Close debate	Voice	Carried	Debate ended	Transcript
3:44	9-11	Main resolution	Electronic	Adopted, 73.39%-26.61%	New entity framework enacted	Officially reported
4:12	1-07A	Main resolution	Voice	Adopted	Parish-level church planting encouraged	Transcript
4:17	1-12	Close debate	Voice	Carried	Debate ended	Transcript
4:18	1-12	Main resolution	Voice	Adopted	Full-time campus ministry support directed	Transcript
4:23	1-09A amendment	Add named gatherings	Withdrawn	No vote	Text unchanged	Transcript

Time	Resolution	Action	Voting Method	Result	Immediate Effect	Verification
4:25	1-09A	Main resolution	Voice	Adopted	Youth and generational research directed	Transcript

6. Voting Details

Numerical votes

Question	Yes	No	Result
Add David P. Ramirez to CTSFW regents ballot	83.91%	16.09%	Added
Open Commission on Worship pool	66.47%	Not announced	Chair declared carried
Add Thomas J. Winterstein	72.88%	Not announced	Added
Add Harald G. Tomesch	81.68%	Not announced	Added
Add Theodore M. R. Hopkins	76.29%	Not announced	Added
Close debate on 6-06A and amendment	77.00%	23.00%	Carried
Age amendment to 6-06A	45.70%	54.30%	Failed
Adopt 6-06A	80.59%	19.41%	Adopted
Adopt 6-07A	88.58%	11.42%	Adopted
Amend standing rule	67.06%	32.94%	Adopted
Adopt 9-02A	95.01%	Not announced	Adopted
Remove lay requirement from COO office	13.14%	Not announced	Failed
Adopt 9-11	73.39%	26.61%	Adopted

Voice votes

Voice votes included:

- fifteen floor-nominee additions;
- the initial Ramirez ballot vote later superseded by division;
- closing debate on 6-07A;
- adoption of 6-08;
- closing debate and adoption of 9-08;

- adoption of 9-09;
- closing debate on 9-11;
- adoption of 1-07A;
- closing debate and adoption of 1-12;
- and adoption of 1-09A.

No numerical totals were reported for these voice votes.

Vote accounting

Using “voting event” to include the original Ramirez voice vote followed by electronic division:

- **Total identifiable voting events:** 38
- **Distinct questions voted upon:** 37
- **Votes with numerical results:** 13
- **Voice-vote events:** 25
- **Unanimous-consent actions not counted as votes:** approval of minutes and closure of nominations
- **Withdrawn amendments with no vote:** one, on Resolution 1-09A
- **Final policy votes with uncertain result:** none
- **Nomination status left uncertain:** at least one, Steven C. Briel
- **Apparent threshold discrepancy:** Commission on Worship pool-opening vote

A procedural vote is not a vote on the underlying policy. For example, the 77% vote to close debate on 6-06A did not signify 77% support for the age restriction or the resolution itself.

7. Motion and Amendment Map

Resolution 6-06A

1. Main motion, adopt Resolution 6-06A.
2. Amendment, exclude the age restriction from the SMP policies being affirmed.
3. Previous-question motion, close debate on amendment and main motion.
4. Previous question passed, 77%-23%.
5. Amendment failed, 45.7%-54.3%.
6. Main motion adopted, 80.59%-19.41%.

Final disposition: Resolution adopted without the age amendment.

Resolution 6-07A

1. Main motion, adopt Resolution 6-07A.
2. Debate on formation length, funding, certification, and one office.
3. Previous-question motion adopted by voice.
4. Main motion adopted, 88.58%-11.42%.

Final disposition: Adopted unchanged.

Resolution 6-08

1. Main motion presented.
2. Secretary clarified technical distinction between supervision and oversight.
3. Main motion adopted by voice.

Final disposition: Adopted unchanged.

Standing-rule amendment

1. Main motion, limit previous question to immediate question.
2. One speech for and one against.
3. Two-thirds electronic vote.
4. Adopted, 67.06%-32.94%.

Final disposition: Rule effective for remaining convention business.

Resolution 9-08

1. Main motion, consolidate CFO and CAO into COO.
2. Amendment, remove "layperson" restriction.
3. Amendment failed, 13.14% in favor.
4. Previous question adopted by voice.
5. Main motion adopted by voice.

Final disposition: COO office created and remains restricted to a layperson.

Resolution 9-11

1. Main motion, adopt entity-governance bylaw framework.
2. Questions regarding liability, state law, district CEFs, ownership, and consultation.
3. Possible postponement discussed, but no formal postponement motion completed.
4. Previous question adopted by voice.
5. Main motion adopted, 73.39%-26.61%.

Final disposition: Bylaw framework adopted.

Resolution 1-12

1. Main motion, support campus ministry and restore full-time staff position.
2. Questions about cost, responsibility, and implementation.
3. Previous question adopted by voice.
4. Main motion adopted by voice.

Final disposition: Adopted.

Resolution 1-09A

1. Main motion, generational research and ministry guidance.
2. Amendment proposed to name two gatherings.
3. Committee explained gatherings were already covered.
4. Mover withdrew amendment.
5. Main motion adopted by voice.

Final disposition: Adopted without the proposed addition.

8. Resolution Analysis

Resolution 6-06A

Strongest case for adoption

The program was created for specific contextual needs, not as a general replacement for residential formation. Clear boundaries protect students, congregations, districts, and the seminaries while still recognizing every properly called and ordained SMP pastor as fully serving in the one office of the ministry.

Strongest legitimate concern

An age line can operate as an inflexible proxy for maturity and circumstance. Some younger men may have genuine ministry contexts and family or employment obligations that make residential study unrealistic.

What changed

The Synod formally reaffirmed the established SMP parameters.

What did not change

- The age restriction was not removed.
- SMP pastors were not declared lesser pastors.
- Residential formation was not made the only route to ordination.
- No new route was created.

Congregational impact

Congregations considering an SMP candidate must continue to work through district and seminary processes and should not assume the convention broadened ordinary admission.

Resolution 6-07A

Strongest case for adoption

It combines respect for existing SMP pastors with encouragement toward broader formation. It also treats funding as a shared ecclesial responsibility rather than leaving the pastor alone with the bill and a heroic quantity of coffee.

Strongest legitimate concern

The resolution encourages funding but does not create an enforceable funding mechanism. The effectiveness of the action will depend heavily on districts, congregations, seminaries, and donors.

Confirmed effect

The Synod now officially encourages SMP pastors to pursue additional certification and encourages collaborative financial support.

Open questions

- What percentage of SMP pastors will pursue GPC?
- How will tuition support be divided?
- Can seminaries provide schedules suitable for bivocational pastors?
- Will there be measurable reporting before 2029?

Resolution 6-08

Strongest case for adoption

It prevents confusion between pastoral mentorship and the constitutional or bylaw authority of an ecclesiastical supervisor.

Legitimate concern

Changing terminology will not by itself create strong mentorship. Implementation still requires clear expectations, training, communication, and accountability.

Resolution 9-02A

Strongest case for adoption

Conflicts may arise after election or appointment. The bylaw now gives entities a clearer process for disclosure, abstention, information control, and possible removal.

Legitimate concern

Terms such as “sensitive information,” “breach of fiduciary duty,” and the scope of disclosure will require careful policy application.

Resolution 9-08

Strongest case for adoption

Combining two overlapping executive roles may:

- clarify responsibility;
- reduce duplication;
- strengthen accountability to the Board of Directors;
- and simplify corporate administration.

Legitimate concern

A consolidated office can also concentrate substantial financial, legal, operational, personnel, and administrative influence in one role. Strong Board oversight will be essential.

Confirmed effect

The bylaw-required CFO and chief administrative officer structure is replaced by a chief operating officer structure.

Resolution 9-09

Strongest case for adoption

Communications and fundraising involve operational systems, compliance, budgets, data, and corporate coordination. Assigning them to the COO may free the chief mission officer to focus more clearly on mission strategy and relationships.

Legitimate concern

Fundraising and communications are not theologically neutral widgets. They shape what Synod emphasizes, how it speaks, and how donors understand the Church's mission. Operational oversight must remain accountable to theological and mission leadership.

Resolution 9-11

Strongest case for adoption

Synod already uses a variety of legal structures. A unified bylaw framework may provide:

- clarity;
- transparency;
- legal consistency;
- public reporting;
- defined accountability;
- and flexible structures for international mission, property, investment, or partnership.

Strongest legitimate concern

The proposal was unusually complex and permanent. Delegates received limited time to evaluate:

- state-law consequences;
- entity relationships;
- district CEF status;
- property questions;
- liability;
- and implementation.

Confirmed effect

The Handbook framework governing Synod agencies and instrumental entities is revised.

Reasonable implication

Synod and its agencies will likely be able to create or regularize certain entities more easily.

Open question

How will the new framework interact with each district CEF's governing documents, state incorporation, fiduciary obligations, and historical relationship with its district?

Speculation to avoid

The vote does not prove that Synod now owns every district CEF asset or that district CEFs will lose operational control. The transcript does not establish that.

Resolution 1-07A

Strongest case for adoption

It places church planting close to the congregation and district, where relationships, pastoral oversight, community knowledge, and sacramental life already exist.

Legitimate concern

A numerical goal can encourage action, but it may also reward counting launches rather than developing healthy congregations.

Confirmed effect

Congregations, circuits, districts, and ONM are encouraged toward coordinated parish-level planting.

Resolution 1-12

Strongest case for adoption

College campuses gather young adults during a formative and often spiritually unsettled season. A national support position can connect local ministries, share resources, strengthen networks, and serve campuses where one district or congregation cannot carry the work alone.

Legitimate concern

The resolution creates an estimated recurring cost of approximately \$200,000 per year without spelling out detailed performance measures.

Confirmed effect

The Board of Directors is directed to restore a full-time position through the Office of National Mission.

Open questions

- Funding source
- Job description
- Measures of effectiveness
- Relationship with district and local campus ministries
- Reporting expectations

Resolution 1-09A

Strongest case for adoption

The Synod needs better evidence about why younger people remain connected, leave, return, enter church work, or disengage. The resolution asks for research before prescribing another shiny program with a logo and three-ring binder.

Legitimate concern

Research can become a substitute for action. The study must produce accessible congregational tools, not merely an impressive report that becomes a footrest in a district office.

9. Amendment Register

Resolution or Motion	Mover	Amendment	Purpose	Debate	Vote	Result	Effect
6-06A	Rocky Mountain District pastoral delegate, transcript name uncertain	Exempt age restriction from affirmed SMP policies	Permit younger qualified men in contextual situations	Need versus attrition, exceptions, residential alternatives	45.7%-54.3%	Failed	Age restriction remained
Special standing rules	Douglas Karns	Limit previous question to immediately pending question	Preserve debate on main motion after amendment	Fairness versus efficiency	67.06%-32.94%	Adopted	Changed procedure for remaining sessions
9-08	Sean Ty	Delete layperson requirement for COO	Permit rostered worker to serve	Candidate flexibility versus church-state distinction and pastoral vocation	13.14% yes	Failed	COO remains lay

Resolution or Motion	Mover	Amendment	Purpose	Debate	Vote	Result	Effect
1-09A	Timothy Anderson	Name LCMS Youth Gathering and Hodos Gathering	Explicitly include important gatherings	Committee said already covered	Withdrawn	No vote	No textual change

10. Nominations and Elections

What the assembly did

The assembly added nominees to possible ballots.

What it did not do

The assembly did not elect the nominees.

Nominee	Position	Category	Pool Status	Vote	End-of-session Status
Doss Tychicus	Board for International Mission	Lay, presumed	In published pool	Voice	Added provisionally
David P. Ramirez	CTSFW Board of Regents	Ordained	In pool	83.91%	Added
Thomas J. Winterstein	Commission on Worship	Director of parish music	Not initially in pool	72.88% after pool opening	Added provisionally
Harald G. Tomesch	CSL Board of Regents	Ordained	In pool	81.68%	Added
Theodore M. R. Hopkins	CTCR	Parish pastor	In pool	76.29%	Added
Steven P. Mueller	Commission on Worship	Ordained parish pastor	In pool	Voice	Added
Daniel Clifton Ross	Commission on Worship	Ordained parish pastor	Outside or uncertain	Voice	Added provisionally
Brent W. Kuhlman	Commission on Worship	Ordained	In pool	Voice	Added

Nominee	Position	Category	Pool Status	Vote	End-of-session Status
Janis G. McDaniels	Board for National Mission	Lay or applicable category	In pool	Voice	Added
Jason Casper	Commission on Worship	Ordained parish pastor	Unclear	Voice	Added, paperwork requested
Steven C. Briel	Commission on Worship	Ordained parish pastor	In pool	Voice	Eligibility unresolved
David P. Ramirez	CTCR	Ordained	In pool	Voice	Added
Joseph L. Olson	CTCR	Lay	In pool	Voice	Added
Paul Solic	Commission on Worship	Commissioned parish musician	Unclear	Voice	Added, service context questioned
Michael Hollmann/Hollman	Commission on Worship	Lay	Unclear	Voice	Added, spelling unverified
Darren Kanan	Commission on Worship	Commissioned minister	Unclear	Voice	Added, spelling unverified
Sean Smith	Commission on Worship	Ordained parish pastor	Not in pool	Voice	Added provisionally

The published nominee volume explains that floor nominees and those from the pool remain subject to category-specific qualification and documentation.

Watch for Tuesday

Delegates should review:

- any corrected candidate list;
- category designations;
- eligibility notes;
- biographies;
- nominations that were removed because paperwork was incomplete;
- and the final status of Steven Briel.

11. Reports, Announcements, and Financial Information

Report	Figure or Information	Status	Significance
National Offering	Goal of \$1 million	Goal, not amount received	Supports next-generation mission grants
National Offering	\$500,000 seed gift	Reported gift	Established half of target
Opening-service offering	Approx. \$60,750.11	Reported as received	Convention participation
Total offering	Approx. \$742,522.11	Reported received or committed	Nearly three-quarters of target
LCMS Foundation	\$190 million in future ministry support	Facilitated future gifts	Planned giving, not cash presently available
LCMS Foundation	\$70 million distributed to 1,000-plus organizations	Reported distributions	Demonstrates current grant and estate impact
Iowa District West example	Approx. \$320,000 annual ministry support	Endowment example	Illustrates long-term income
Campus ministry resolution	Approx. \$200,000 annually plus expenses	Estimated recurring cost	Requires budgeting and implementation
Church planting presentation	32 plants underway	Program report	Current pipeline
Church planting presentation	Around 60 locations preparing	Identified opportunities	Not yet 60 organized congregations

12. Procedural and Governance Significance

Previous question now reaches only one question

This was the clearest procedural reform of the afternoon.

Before the change, a delegate could move the previous question while an amendment was pending and close debate on:

- the amendment;
- and the final resolution.

After the change:

1. Debate closes on the immediate question.
2. The immediate question is decided.
3. Debate may resume on the resulting main motion.
4. A new motion is required to close that debate.

This should reduce situations where delegates vote on a final resolution without having a chance to discuss what it says after amendment.

Division of the assembly

The Ramirez regents nomination demonstrates the purpose of division:

- the chair announced the voice result;
- a delegate challenged whether the result was clear;
- an electronic vote established the numerical outcome.

Division does not reconsider the question. It verifies the vote before the result becomes settled.

Opening a nomination pool

The Commission on Worship sequence showed two separate questions:

1. Shall the otherwise closed pool be opened?
2. Shall this individual be added?

Delegates were not electing Winterstein in either vote.

Eligibility versus popularity

A person may receive overwhelming support and still be ineligible. Ballot addition does not cure:

- incorrect category;
- missing consent;
- lack of parish service;
- or other qualification defects.

Bylaw actions deserve heightened scrutiny

Resolutions 9-08, 9-09, and especially 9-11 were not temporary program recommendations. They altered the permanent governance framework.

Delegates should distinguish verbs carefully:

- assist;

- advise;
- oversee;
- direct;
- report;
- create;
- control;
- and approve

do not mean the same thing.

Chair's Matthew 18 direction

The chair's ruling preserved the order of business and treated the concern initially as interpersonal and pastoral rather than as a convention motion.

Whether that was pastorally sufficient is open to discussion. Procedurally, however, no formal appeal was taken, so the ruling stood.

13. What Officially Happened

Adopted or Approved

- Minutes approved as printed.
- Resolution 6-06A adopted.
- Resolution 6-07A adopted.
- Resolution 6-08 adopted.
- Special standing-rule amendment adopted.
- Resolution 9-02A adopted.
- Resolution 9-08 adopted.
- Resolution 9-09 adopted.
- Resolution 9-11 adopted.
- Resolution 1-07A adopted.
- Resolution 1-12 adopted.
- Resolution 1-09A adopted.

Rejected or Failed

- Amendment removing the SMP age restriction failed.
- Amendment removing the layperson requirement for the COO failed.

Referred or Assigned

No new referral motion was adopted during the afternoon.

Several adopted resolutions assign implementation work to:

- the Board of Directors;
- the Office of National Mission;
- districts;
- seminaries;
- Synod research staff;
- congregations;
- and agency leadership.

Added to Ballots or Nomination Pools

Seventeen nomination actions were taken, involving sixteen individuals because David Ramirez was added to two different ballots.

Reports Received

- National Offering update
- International Mission presentation
- LCMS Foundation presentation
- WELS greeting
- National Mission church-planting presentation

These were informational and did not themselves enact convention policy.

Pending or Unfinished

- Remaining Floor Committee 1 work
- Remaining Floor Committee 6 work
- Remaining Floor Committee 9 work
- Later elections
- Eligibility and paperwork verification of floor nominees
- Steven Briel's Commission on Worship eligibility
- Administrative implementation of 9-08, 9-09, and 9-11
- Funding and staffing details for campus ministry

Announced but Not Acted Upon

- National Offering goals and future grant process
 - Foundation giving opportunities
 - Ongoing WELS-LCMS theological discussions
 - Mission projects described in the presentations
-

14. Immediate Ramifications

Confirmed Immediate Consequences

SMP policy

- The existing SMP parameters were affirmed.
- The age restriction remained.
- Additional general certification was encouraged.
- Mentor terminology was clarified.

Parliamentary procedure

- Calling the question now closes debate only on the immediately pending question.

Synod administration

- The future officer structure now includes a chief operating officer in place of separate bylaw-required CFO and chief administrative officer roles.
- Communications and fundraising oversight are reassigned.
- The entity-formation framework is revised.

Mission priorities

- Congregation-based church planting received explicit support.
- A full-time campus-ministry support position is directed.
- Generational ministry research is directed.

Elections

- Ballots were expanded, subject to verification.

Administrative and Implementation Consequences

Board of Directors

The Board must work through:

- COO structure;
- officer job descriptions;
- reporting relationships;
- communications and fundraising transitions;
- entity policies;
- and campus-ministry staffing and funding.

Seminaries and districts

They are encouraged to cooperate on:

- SMP continuing education;
- scheduling;
- tuition support;
- and communication of available pathways.

Office of National Mission

ONM receives or shares responsibilities involving:

- campus ministry;
- church planting;
- youth research;
- generational ministry resources;
- and district collaboration.

Office of the Secretary

The Secretary must:

- process floor nominations;
- verify qualifications;
- publish corrected candidate information;
- and incorporate the adopted bylaws into official records.

Consequences for Tuesday's Agenda

- Expanded ballots become relevant.
- The Commission on Worship election is now possible because the commission was reinstated Sunday and nominees were added Monday.
- Pastoral Ministry and Seminaries returns Tuesday.
- Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution is scheduled twice.
- Theology and Church Relations is scheduled in the afternoon.
- Multiple election windows are scheduled.

Consequences Not Yet Known

- Whether all floor nominees qualify.
- Whether campus ministry funding will be added to an existing budget or require reallocation.
- Who will be hired as COO.
- How staffing transitions will affect current officers and departments.
- How 9-11 will be applied to district CEFs.
- Whether additional policies will be needed to protect entity independence and accountability.
- Whether the youth study will be internal or contracted externally.

- The numerical level of support for the three National Witness resolutions adopted by voice.
-

15. Longer-Term Significance

Synod governance

Confirmed effect

The administrative officer structure and entity framework have changed.

Reasonable implication

Board-level governance and compliance work will increase during the transition.

Open question

Will consolidation create clearer accountability or excessive concentration of operational authority?

Speculation to avoid

There is no evidence that the convention voted to diminish the ecclesiastical authority of the Synod president or district presidents.

Pastoral formation

Confirmed effect

The present SMP framework remains in place, while movement toward GPC is encouraged.

Reasonable implication

More SMP pastors may seek further certification if funding and scheduling are available.

Open question

Whether actual enrollment will rise and whether the seminaries can scale the pathway.

Speculation to avoid

The vote did not abolish SMP, declare SMP pastors invalid, or make residential education the exclusive route.

Mission

Confirmed effect

Church planting, campus ministry, and ministry among younger generations received direct convention support.

Reasonable implication

These areas may receive stronger staff attention and funding during the triennium.

Open question

Whether the resolutions will produce measurable increases in congregational connection, Baptisms, catechesis, church-worker recruitment, and sustainable plants.

Speculation to avoid

A resolution supporting mission does not itself create thriving ministries. Implementation is where noble nouns meet Tuesday morning.

Finances

Confirmed effect

A recurring campus-ministry staffing expense is anticipated.

Reasonable implication

Administrative restructuring may produce some savings but will also require transition, legal, policy, and personnel work.

Open question

Net financial effect of the COO structure and entity framework.

16. Ministry Implications

Congregations

- Congregations are explicitly encouraged to become planting congregations rather than waiting for a national office to parachute in with a church planter and a branded polo shirt.
- Congregations supporting SMP pastors are encouraged to assist with further education.

- Congregations near colleges should expect greater connection with national campus-ministry networks.
- Parents and congregations may receive new resources from the generational study.

Pastors

- SMP pastors may face stronger encouragement to pursue GPC.
- Pastor-mentors need clarity about oversight responsibilities.
- Pastors in planting congregations may need support, coaching, and shared leadership.
- Pastors should watch whether youth research produces practical catechetical tools.

Commissioned ministers

- Commissioned church workers may serve in implementation roles involving youth, schools, campus ministry, music, research, and planting teams.
- Commissioned-minister representation on the Commission on Worship ballot expanded.

Circuit visitors

Circuit visitors may become important connectors for:

- identifying planting opportunities;
- supporting isolated pastors;
- encouraging SMP continuing formation;
- and helping congregations collaborate.

District leadership

Districts will likely carry substantial responsibility for:

- SMP exceptions and formation support;
- church-plant assessment;
- grant multiplication;
- campus-ministry relationships;
- and interpretation of new entity bylaws.

Seminaries

The seminaries are encouraged to:

- support accessible GPC pathways;
- accommodate working pastors;
- communicate competencies;
- and preserve rigorous formation while recognizing contextual realities.

International mission

The Puerto Rico presentation reinforced a model of:

- local congregation planting;
- missionary partnership;
- theological education;
- mercy work;
- and international collaboration.

Youth and family ministry

Resolution 1-09A creates an opportunity to move beyond anecdotes such as, “Young adults just don’t care anymore,” which is often less a research finding and more Uncle Harold clearing his throat at Bible class.

The study should help distinguish:

- cultural change;
- parental formation;
- catechesis;
- congregational belonging;
- digital influence;
- and institutional trust.

Stewardship

The National Offering and Foundation presentation emphasized stewardship that:

- supports local ministry;
- plans beyond one budget year;
- shares resources;
- and treats generosity as participation in Gospel witness.

17. Kingdom over Castle Ministry Analysis

“Kingdom over Castle” is used here as a project lens, not as official convention terminology.

Action or Discussion	Partnership Implication	Strength of Connection	Caution
Resolution 1-07A	Encourages congregations, circuits, districts, and ONM to plant together	Direct	Avoid measuring only starts rather than health

Action or Discussion	Partnership Implication	Strength of Connection	Caution
Resolution 1-12	Creates a connective national role supporting local campus ministries	Direct	National staff should equip rather than control
Resolution 1-09A	Shares research and resources across churches, homes, schools, and districts	Direct	Study must become usable local tools
Resolution 6-07A	Encourages congregations, districts, seminaries, and pastors to share formation costs	Direct	Funding remains voluntary and uneven
Puerto Rico presentation	Demonstrates international partnership, theological education, and local planting	Direct	Partnerships need local leadership and accountability
ONM planting presentation	Shows congregation-based, team-oriented mission	Direct	Do not let process become bureaucratic gatekeeping
WELS greeting	Maintains charitable theological conversation without pretending differences are solved	Reasonable but indirect	Cooperation must not obscure fellowship boundaries
Resolution 9-08	Could reduce duplication and improve service	Indirect	Consolidation can become institutional centralization
Resolution 9-11	Could enable flexible property, mission, and partnership structures	Indirect	High accountability and low control must be preserved
National Offering	Pools generosity for local next-generation ministries	Direct	Grant processes should remain accessible to small ministries

Harvest Partnership lens

Spirit's Sending

The strongest expressions were church planting, international mission, campus ministry, and engagement with younger generations.

Kingdom Focus

Resolutions 1-07A, 1-12, and 1-09A were outward-facing and congregation-serving.

Open-Handed Generosity

The National Offering, Foundation report, and shared funding of SMP education reflected a willingness to release resources for others.

Humility

The WELS greeting modeled dialogue that acknowledged real agreement and real disagreement without theatrical chest-thumping.

Trust

Resolution 9-11 will test whether Synod can maintain high accountability without unnecessary control. Its implementation, not merely its explanatory speeches, will reveal the answer.

18. What Delegates Should Be Thinking About

Questions About Faithfulness

1. Does each proposal keep Christ's Gospel and the proper administration of the Sacraments central?
2. Are we treating a program preference as though it were divine doctrine?
3. Are formation standards serving the flock, or merely protecting familiar structures?
4. Are mission initiatives grounded in actual proclamation, Baptism, catechesis, and congregational life?
5. Are our governance structures servants of the Church, or are they quietly becoming the Church's definition of success?

Questions About Governance and Procedure

1. What question is immediately pending?
2. Am I voting on an amendment, the final resolution, a procedural motion, or a candidate's ballot eligibility?
3. Does a bylaw proposal clarify authority or merely move authority?
4. Who appoints, removes, reviews, and receives reports from the responsible person?
5. What appeal or accountability exists if implementation exceeds the convention's intended purpose?
6. Which nominee categories have unresolved eligibility questions?
7. Has Tuesday's Today's Business corrected the pool-opening percentage or explained the threshold?

Questions About Mission and Ministry

1. How will church planting equip existing congregations to send people and resources?
2. How will campus ministry serve campuses without established ministries?
3. How will research on younger generations reach parents and small congregations?
4. Will partnerships multiply Gospel witness or merely multiply meetings?
5. How will new efforts identify and send workers into the harvest?

Questions About Stewardship and Implementation

1. Where will the \$200,000 annual campus-ministry position be funded?
2. What outcomes will be reported?
3. What does shared SMP tuition support mean in actual dollars?
4. What will restructuring cost during transition?
5. How will district CEFs be consulted under 9-11?
6. What sunsets, reviews, audits, or triennial reports are appropriate?

Questions About Unity and Life Together

1. Can we state another delegate's concern in a form that the delegate would recognize?
 2. Are we correcting error or punishing a person?
 3. Are we using procedure to protect fair deliberation or merely to win faster?
 4. Where is private reconciliation needed before public accusation?
 5. How can accountability remain strong without assuming bad motives?
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19. What Delegates Should Pray About

Prayer Guide

For fidelity to Christ and His Word

Lord Jesus Christ, keep Your Church steadfast in Your Word. Guard us from treating human wisdom, structures, strategies, or personalities as the foundation of Your Church.

For repentance and humility

Merciful Father, reveal our pride, impatience, suspicion, and desire to control. Forgive us for Christ's sake and teach us to speak truth with love.

For delegates

Holy Spirit, give delegates attentive ears, clear minds, courage to speak, and humility to listen.

For fair procedure

God of peace and good order, bless the chairman, secretary, parliamentarians, voting staff, and committee leaders. Keep each question clear and every delegate's rights protected.

For nominees

Lord of the Church, bless those nominated for boards, commissions, and regents. Give them wisdom, courage, and a servant's heart. Close doors that should not open and open those through which they may faithfully serve.

For pastoral formation

Good Shepherd, bless our seminaries, SMP pastors, residential students, mentors, professors, congregations, and districts. Give Your Church faithful pastors who preach Christ and care for the flock.

For church planting and campus ministry

Lord of the harvest, raise up workers. Open communities, campuses, neighborhoods, and homes to the proclamation of Christ crucified and risen.

For youth and families

Heavenly Father, strengthen parents in their vocation. Keep children and young adults in their Baptism, Your Word, prayer, worship, and the fellowship of the Church.

For governance

Grant wisdom to the Board of Directors, officers, agencies, district CEFs, and legal advisers as they implement the adopted bylaws.

For unity

Keep us united not by avoidance, institutional loyalty, or political victory, but by the pure Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments.

For Tuesday

Give patience for long ballots, clarity for complex resolutions, and enough coffee to remain both awake and sanctified.

20. Preparing for Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Business Carried Forward

No main question was pending when Monday's afternoon business ended.

The following broader work remained:

- additional Floor Committee 1 resolutions;

- additional Floor Committee 6 resolutions;
- additional Floor Committee 9 resolutions;
- elections for boards, commissions, regents, CTCR, and other entities;
- final processing of floor nominations;
- later Committee 4 consideration of Resolution 4-10;
- and business from committees not yet fully heard.

Official Reporter coverage states that Resolution 4-10 was the one remaining Committee 4 resolution for later in the week.

Confirmed Tuesday Agenda

The official tentative schedule lists the following. The president may adjust the order of business.

Morning

- 8:00 a.m., Morning Prayer, Rev. Dr. Nabil S. Nour
- 8:25 a.m., Registration, Credentials, and Elections
- 8:30 a.m., Concordia Publishing House greeting
- 8:35 a.m., Consent Calendar
- 8:45 a.m., Elections for boards, CTCR, regents, and Synodwide entities
- 9:35 a.m., Convention essay, "Christ Conquers Death," Dr. Michael A. Thomas
- 10:00 a.m., Essay response
- 10:10 a.m., Military chaplains presentation
- 10:30 a.m., Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution
- 11:00 a.m., Pastoral Ministry and Seminaries
- Noon, recess

Afternoon

- 1:30 p.m., Midday Prayer, Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor
- 1:45 p.m., Minutes
- 1:50 p.m., Church Relations presentation
- 2:10 p.m., Theology and Church Relations
- 2:55 p.m., Recognition of international and national church-body representatives
- 3:15 p.m., Elections
- 3:55 p.m., Recognition of newly elected and outgoing Board of Directors
- 4:00 p.m., Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution
- 4:40 p.m., Pastoral Ministry and Seminaries
- 5:05 p.m., Elections
- 5:45 p.m., Responsive Prayer
- 6:00 p.m., recess

Matters Likely to Return

These are supported expectations, not guaranteed agenda items:

- SMP and pastoral-formation questions from remaining Committee 6 work.
- Elections involving Monday's floor nominees.
- Eligibility clarification for Commission on Worship nominees.
- Additional debate over ecclesiastical supervision and dispute resolution.
- Theology and Church Relations resolutions likely to generate close reading of doctrinal claims and ecclesiastical consequences.
- Questions about implementation of Monday's governance decisions may continue informally even if the resolutions do not return.

Documents Delegates Should Review

1. Tuesday's Today's Business.
2. Monday's revised resolutions and adopted texts.
3. Final nominee biographies and corrections.
4. Commission on Worship category descriptions.
5. Resolution 9-11's full bylaw text.
6. Remaining Committee 6 resolutions.
7. Committee 10 resolutions.
8. Committee 5 resolutions scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.
9. Standing rules, especially the newly amended previous-question rule.
10. The 2023 Handbook sections on agencies, ecclesiastical supervision, boards, commissions, and elections.

Questions Delegates May Need Answered

- Was the 66.47% vote sufficient to open the Commission on Worship pool?
- Which floor nominees were removed because of paperwork or eligibility?
- Is Steven Briel eligible in the parish-pastor category?
- What is the exact spelling and biography of the less clearly heard nominees?
- Does 9-11 require additional district CEF action?
- What implementation timeline follows 9-08 and 9-09?
- What funding source will support the campus-ministry position?
- Which remaining pastoral-formation proposals modify SMP, GPC, RAR, or residential formation?

Practical Preparation

- Charge the voting device.
- Bring all Today's Business issues.
- Mark the candidate categories before elections.
- Do not assume a familiar name is running for the category you are voting on.
- Read the screen before pressing the button. It is remarkable how often Lutheran governance is protected by the humble discipline of reading the noun.
- Remember that a vote to close debate is now limited to the immediately pending question.

- Review amendments in writing before approaching the microphone.
- Keep microphone statements narrow and tied to exact wording.

Trends to Watch

Observed

- Large majorities are supporting committee resolutions.
- Amendments are receiving more resistance than main resolutions.
- Delegates are willing to call for electronic division when voice results appear unclear.
- The assembly favors mission encouragement but also favors structured accountability.
- Bylaw packages are passing even when delegates acknowledge their complexity.
- Debate is often ending through the previous question before every queued speaker is heard.

Prediction to avoid

It would be premature to claim that Tuesday's doctrinal or ecclesiastical-supervision resolutions will follow the same voting margins.

21. Five-Part Closing Summary

Five Most Important Official Actions

1. Resolution 6-06A affirmed the current SMP parameters.
2. Resolution 6-07A encouraged SMP pastors to pursue broader certification with shared financial support.
3. The standing-rule amendment protected separate debate on amendments and main motions.
4. Resolutions 9-08, 9-09, and 9-11 significantly restructured Synod administration and entity governance.
5. Resolutions 1-07A, 1-12, and 1-09A strengthened church planting, campus ministry, and ministry research among younger generations.

Five Most Significant Procedural Moments

1. Division on David Ramirez's nomination produced an electronic result.
2. The Commission on Worship nomination pool was opened, though the recorded percentage requires verification.
3. Nominees remained subject to forms, consent, and eligibility.
4. The previous-question rule was changed.
5. A possible postponement of 9-11 was discussed but never became a completed motion.

Five Most Significant Ministry Implications

1. More explicit parish-level responsibility for planting congregations.
2. Potential restoration of national campus-ministry staff support.

3. Stronger encouragement for SMP continuing formation.
4. New research and resources for youth, young adults, and families.
5. Greater opportunity, and greater responsibility, for partnerships across congregations, districts, seminaries, agencies, and Synod offices.

Five Questions Every Delegate Should Carry into Tuesday

1. What exact question am I voting on?
2. What does this action require, and what does it merely encourage?
3. Who receives authority, and who holds that person or entity accountable?
4. Will this serve congregations and Gospel witness, or mostly enlarge institutional machinery?
5. What official source confirms the number, wording, candidate, cost, or legal claim before us?

Five Matters for Prayer

1. Faithfulness to Christ and His Word.
 2. Humility and charity in disagreement.
 3. Wisdom for elections and nominees.
 4. Clear and fair convention procedure.
 5. Faithful implementation of every adopted action.
-

22. One-Page Tuesday Morning Briefing

Monday Afternoon in One Paragraph

Monday afternoon combined nominations, pastoral-formation decisions, parliamentary reform, major governance changes, and mission resolutions. Delegates reaffirmed current SMP parameters, rejected removal of the SMP age restriction, encouraged SMP pastors toward General Pastor Certification, clarified mentor oversight, changed the previous-question rule, enacted new executive and entity-governance bylaws, supported church planting and campus ministry, and directed generational ministry research. Numerous nominees were added to Tuesday's election ballots, but none was elected Monday.

Decisions and Results

- 6-06A adopted, 80.59%.
- SMP age amendment failed, 45.7%-54.3%.
- 6-07A adopted, 88.58%.
- 6-08 adopted by voice.
- Standing-rule amendment adopted, 67.06%.
- 9-02A adopted, 95.01%.
- Amendment to permit a rostered COO failed, 13.14% yes.
- 9-08 and 9-09 adopted by voice.
- 9-11 adopted, 73.39%.
- 1-07A, 1-12, and 1-09A adopted by voice.

Unfinished Business

- Remaining committee resolutions.
- Verification of floor nominees.
- Steven Briel's eligibility.
- Elections for boards, CTCR, regents, the Commission on Worship, and other entities.
- Implementation questions surrounding 9-11 and district CEFs.

Voting and Procedural Notes

- A call for the question now applies only to the immediate pending question.
- Floor nomination is not election.
- Voice vote may be challenged by division before moving to other business.
- The 66.47% pool-opening result requires official clarification if two-thirds was required.
- A withdrawn amendment was never adopted or rejected.

Why It Matters

Monday protected the current pastoral-formation framework while encouraging continuing education. It also gave significant administrative authority and implementation work to the Board of Directors and Synod officers. At the same time, it invested convention energy in outward mission through church planting, campuses, youth, and families.

What to Watch Tuesday

- Corrected nominee lists.
- Commission on Worship categories and eligibility.
- Committee 10 on ecclesiastical supervision and dispute resolution.
- Remaining Committee 6 pastoral-formation work.
- Committee 5 theology and church-relations resolutions.
- Multiple election windows.

Questions to Carry into the Session

- What changes?
- What does not change?
- Who must act?
- What will it cost?
- What accountability exists?
- Is this doctrinal, practical, procedural, financial, or rhetorical?
- Does it serve the Gospel and congregations?

Prayer Focus

Pray for delegates to speak truthfully, listen charitably, vote carefully, and remember that the Church's future does not rest on a keypad. Christ is risen. He reigns. His Word will not return empty.

23. Verification Report

Completed Verification

- Reviewed the entire transcript.
- Distinguished inactive recording time from formal session time.
- Identified formal prayer, business opening, conclusion, and Vespers.
- Included all major agenda segments.
- Accounted for every identifiable main resolution.
- Accounted for every identifiable amendment.
- Accounted for the floor nominations.
- Distinguished ballot additions from elections.
- Accounted for electronic and voice votes.
- Distinguished procedural votes from policy votes.
- Identified withdrawn amendments.
- Identified the absence of a completed postponement motion on 9-11.
- Distinguished presentations from convention actions.
- Checked official LCMS reporting for Committee 6 and Committee 9 results.
- Checked resolution titles against Today's Business.
- Checked several nominee spellings against the published nominee pool.
- Did not calculate opposing percentages where they were not announced.
- Identified transcript uncertainty rather than silently repairing names.

Items That Could Not Be Verified

1. Approved July 20 minutes

Needed source: Approved Monday minutes published in a later Today's Business.

2. Commission on Worship pool-opening threshold

The chair declared the pool open at 66.47%, although two-thirds appears to have been required.

Needed source: Approved minutes, voting-system report, or Office of the Secretary clarification.

3. Steven C. Briel's eligibility

The transcript left unresolved whether he was currently serving as a parish pastor.

Needed source: Final Tuesday candidate list or secretary's eligibility ruling.

4. Exact identity and spelling of several Commission on Worship nominees

Especially:

- Michael Hollmann or Hollman;
- Darren Kanan or similar spelling;
- Sean or Shawn Smith;
- and Paul Solic's precise ministry information.

Needed source: Final candidate biographies or election ballot.

5. Final paperwork status of all floor nominees

The secretary warned that nominations lacking completed forms and signed consent would fall.

Needed source: Final candidate list.

6. Official numerical totals for voice votes

Needed source: No numerical record may exist unless division was requested.

7. National Offering donor or foundation name

The transcript's rendering was unclear.

Needed source: Official National Offering report or presentation materials.

8. Final adopted wording of revised "A" resolutions

The transcript establishes the substance, but the exact printed revised text should be checked against Issue 2B and later adopted minutes.

Needed source: Official revised resolutions and approved minutes.

9. District CEF implementation under Resolution 9-11

The vote adopted the framework, but the transcript did not provide a complete legal or operational explanation for every district CEF.

Needed source: Final adopted text, CCM opinion, implementation guidance, district CEF governing documents, and applicable state law.

Closing Gospel Frame

No convention vote saves the Church. No administrative structure raises dry bones. No strategic plan reconciles sinners to God.

"But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Convention work matters because Christ's people desire to order their common life faithfully, support the preaching office, steward gifts wisely, and send the Gospel into the harvest. Yet the Church rests finally on Christ crucified and risen, proclaimed in His Word and given through His Sacraments.

Christ is risen indeed. The risen Lord preserves His Church, forgives her sins, sends her people, and gives life where we see only dry bones.