

Convention Minutes

Session 5

Tuesday a.m., July 21, 2026

Matins

The Rev. Dr. Nabil Nour, LCMS Fourth Vice-President (Great Plains Region), preached on 1 Peter 1:3–9 in the Office of Morning Prayer; Chaplain Daenzer served as liturgist.

[The entire text of Vice-President Nour’s sermon will be printed in the *2026 Convention Proceedings*.]

Committee 11: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

Having called the convention to order, President Harrison recognized the *Today’s Business* team, drawn principally from International Center staff in various departments, who serve largely in addition to their regular duties, together with one “on loan” from the LCMS Foundation and a few trusted contractors, for their service to the convention and the Synod.

President Harrison opened the session, calling upon the Rev. James Maxwell, chairman of Committee 11 (Registration, Credentials, and Elections), to update to the registration report, which read as follows:

Voting delegates	951
Advisory delegates	161
Advisory representatives	170
Special guests and others	173

The report was moved and adopted without discussion by voice vote.

Greetings—Concordia Publishing House

Mr. Jonathan Schultz, President of Concordia Publishing House (CPH), reaffirmed CPH’s unchanging mission, first stated by C.F.W. Walther nearly 157 years ago: to serve “God alone, Christ alone, the Word and kingdom of God alone, the church of Jesus Christ and the truth alone.” He stressed that CPH produces faithful resources to proclaim the Good News that “Christ is risen indeed,” with real impact occurring when these resources are used in pews, classrooms, homes, and mission fields. Key digital initiatives include the Book of Concord website featuring *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, which has drawn nearly 39,000 visitors from 150 countries, now with a Spanish version; and the Luther’s Small Catechism website and app, now in 10 languages with plans to add at least 25 more, having reached hundreds of thousands of users from 194 countries. CPH’s Lutheran Educator Academy launched in April as a video-based resource to help school administrators equip non-rostered faculty in Lutheran schools. In the area of faith and mercy, the Arch Books food bank program distributes over 10,000 Christian children’s books weekly, with new editions forthcoming in Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Telugu, and Farsi through an LWML mission grant. CPH is also collaborating with LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces on the Armed Forces Ministry Book, offering rites, blessings, prayers, and hymnody for military personnel and families. President Schultz highlighted the 20th anniversary of *Lutheran Service Book*, noting a discount this month. He also promoted the CPH Resource Center Program, which has already been joined by over 600 congregations to provide members with discounted faithful resources and free shipping. He concluded by affirming CPH’s ongoing commitment to serving as the premier publisher of resources faithful to the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions.

Consent Calendar

After some instruction from the parliamentarian, the body was asked to vote on whether requests for information—which have been somewhat misused or abused—should be lowered to the same priority as ordinary speaking for/against or offering motions. This carried [Yes: 575; No: 308]. (It was later explained that the “ask an allowable question” queue button is to be used only for parliamentary inquiries, which will be privileged; all other speaking is to use the pro/con selections.)

An amendment was moved and carried on a voice vote to amend Rule 10 to change the vote required to remove from the consent calendar from 10 percent to 15 percent.

The chair introduced the day's consent calendar, as found in *Today's Business* issue 4 (4:378), including Res. 4-10, "To Celebrate Concordia Historical Institute Centenary and Renew the Synod's Commitment to Treasure and Trumpet Its Redeemed History" (TB, 1:93–94); Res. 5-03, "To Give Thanks for the Mission Province in Sweden" (TB, 1:98–99); Res. 5-06A, "To Amend Bylaw 3.9.5.2.2 (b)" (TB, 2B:292); Res. 5-07, "To Refer 'Sister Church' Nomenclature Change to Commission on Handbook" (TB, 1:103); Res. 5-13A, "To Give Thanks to God for 1700th Anniversary of First Council of Nicaea" (TB, 2B:294); Res. 9-01B, "To Amend Bylaws 1.5.3.2–4 and Add Bylaw 4.7.6 regarding Regulations for Committees" (TB, 4:380–82); Res. 10-05A, "To Amend Bylaw 4.2.4 regarding Installation of District Presidents" (TB, 3:354); and Res. 10-06, "To Amend Bylaw 2.11.2.2 (c)" (TB, 1:184). The chair noted that Res. 9-01A is not included, as it is going back to committee for further work.

It was moved to remove Res. 10-05A, "To Amend Bylaw 4.2.4 regarding Installation of District Presidents" (TB, 3:354), from the consent calendar. This removal carried at the request of more than 15 percent of the voting delegates [Yes: 237; No: 656], sending Res. 10-05A back to the regular floor committee schedule.

Debate exhausted, the consent calendar was adopted by voice vote, including Res. 4-10, 5-03, 5-06A, 5-07, 5-13A, 9-01B, and 10-06.

Committee 11: Registration, Credentials, and Elections – Balloting for Other Boards and Commissions

With the Rev. Dr. Michael Gibson, president of the Pacific Southwest District, assuming the chair, the chair called Committee 11 Chairman James Maxwell to the podium to continue with elections for the Synod's boards and commissions. After some introductory remarks and Chaplain Daenzer having offered an opening prayer, they continued:

Board for National Mission (Ordained/Commissioned, Central Region, 6-year term)

Douglas L. Rutt (MO)	327	
Michael P. Schuermann (CI)	557	(declared elected)

Board for National Mission (Ordained/Commissioned, Great Lakes Region, 6-year term)

Peter C. Bender (SW)	551	(declared elected)
Miriam R. Yakimow (MI)	347	

Board for National Mission (Ordained/Commissioned, West-Southwest Region, 6-year term)

Kevin W. Austin (PSW)	296	344	
Thomas E. Chryst (TX)	441	555	(declared elected)
Neil S. Vanderbush (TX)	148		

Board for National Mission (Lay, East-Southeast Region, 6-year term)

Rande T. Casaday (EN)	132	
David L. Daniels (SE)	454	(declared elected)
Karen A. Dowbnia (EN)	124	
Janis G. McDaniels (SE)	186	

Board for National Mission (Lay, Great Plains Region, 6-year term)

Vernon W. Kettelhake (NEB)	283	
Sarah Rausch (SD)	609	(declared elected)

Board for International Mission (Ordained/Commissioned, East-Southeast Region, 6-year term)

James A. Douthwaite (SELC)	460	(declared elected)
Gregory D. Jans (NJ)	164	
Rachel E. Jaseph (SE)	268	

Board for International Mission (Ordained/Commissioned, Great Plains Region, 6-year term)

Richard X. Her (MNS)	222			
Daniel Preus (MNN)	420	494		(declared elected)
Brent D. Smith (NEB)	258	410		

Board for International Mission (Lay, Central Region, 6-year term)

Adam D. Fosse (KS)	533			(declared elected)
Seth R. Hinz (MO)	357			

Board for International Mission (Lay, Great Lakes Region, 6-year term)

Kelly Bone (MI)	354			
John L. Powers (SW)	549			(declared elected)

Board for International Mission (Lay, West-Southwest Region, 6-year term)

Richard P. Fielitz Jr. (CNH)	147			
Terence Lung (CNH)	548			(declared elected)
Doss Tychicus (PSW)	198			

Commission on Theology and Church Relations (Ordained (parish pastor), 6-year term)

Theodore J. Hopkins (MI)	186	224		
Andrew C. Kennell (MO)	148			
Martin R. Noland (CNH)	209	230	351	
Mark P. Surburg (SI)	359	448	542	(declared elected)

Commission on Theology and Church Relations (Lay, 6-year term)

Keith G. Chuvala (TX)	253			
Paul P. Edmon (NE)	472			(declared elected)
Joseph. L. Olson (SW)	171			

Concordia Historical Institute (Ordained, elect 2, 6-year term)

Position 1 of 2:

Rodney A. Benkendorf (MO)	345	462		(declared elected)
Mark A. Loest (MI)	168			
David P. Ramirez (SW)	197	240		
Robert V. Roethemeyer (IN)	189	198		

Position 2 of 2:

Mark A. Loest (MI)	155			
David P. Ramirez (SW)	296	329		
Robert V. Roethemeyer (IN)	448	576		(declared elected)

Concordia Historical Institute (Commissioned/Lay, 6-year term)

David Duesenberg (MO)	154			
Alessandro Mereaglia (NOW)	301	364		
Matthew C. Phillips (NEB)	438	529		(declared elected)

1 *Convention Essay: “Christ Conquers Death”*

2 President Harrison resumed the chair to recognize the essayist; during the essay, he passed the chair to the Rev.
3 Richard Snow, president, Nebraska District.

4 [The entire text of the essay by the Rev. Dr. Michael A. Thomas, president, Concordia University, Irvine, as well
5 as the response by the Rev. C. Bryan Wolfmueller, pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas., will be printed
6 in the *2026 Convention Proceedings*.]

7 *Presentation—Military Chaplains*

8 The Rev. Craig G. Muehler, director of the Synod’s Ministry to the Armed Forces, brought greetings on behalf of
9 LCMS military chaplains, thanking the assembly for prayers and faithful support, such that the Synod’s military
10 chaplains know the entire Synod stands behind them. He introduced three chaplain representatives: Chaplain Joel
11 Giese (Army), Chaplain Paul Rockrohr (Navy), and Chaplain Chad Potts (Air Force). Mueller asked for submission
12 of names and contact information of LCMS servicemen and women so they can receive the faithful pastoral care they
13 need and deserve. He also acknowledged the work of CPH in preparing the new resource for members of the military.
14 Mueller spoke about the work chaplains do in facilitating the free exercise of religion. Military commanders are
15 urgently requesting more chaplains. Mueller recognized veterans in attendance and spoke about the work of Operation
16 Barnabas, launched at the 2007 LCMS Convention. This program equips congregations to support military members,
17 veterans, and their families with the love of Christ in action.

18 The Rev. Dr. Steven C. Hokana, assistant director of LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, joined Mueller in
19 recognizing Rear Admiral Gregory Todd with the St. Martin of Tours Medal. Rear Admiral Todd recently retired after
20 serving as the Chief of Navy Chaplains. A full biography of Chaplain Todd and a description of the St. Martin of
21 Tours Medal can be found on page 371 in the Tuesday (Issue 4) edition of *Today’s Business*. Addressing the
22 convention as “Shipmates,” a term of endearment in the Navy, Todd expressed gratitude to God, his wife, and to the
23 LCMS as a whole.

24 *Committee 10: Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution*

25 The chair recognized Chairman Robert D. Beinke, president, New England District, to continue the report of his
26 committee; he began by introducing the committee members.

27 Res. 10-02A, “To Create a Task Force to Clarify Relationship Between Bylaw 1.10 and 2.14 and Consider Bylaw
28 Changes for Dispute Resolution (Bylaw 1.10) and Expulsion of Congregations or Individuals from Membership in
29 the Synod (Bylaw 2.14)” (*TB*, 3:351–52), was read and introduced by the committee. After debate, the question was
30 called; this prevailed on a voice vote. The resolution was adopted by a voice vote.

31 Res. 10-03A, “To Respond to Sexual Misconduct by Rostered Workers and Make Provision for Spiritual Care of
32 Those Affected” (*TB*, 3:352–53), was, after introductory comments, read and introduced by the committee. It was
33 read, at p. 353, l. 4, to insert after “manuals” the words: “giving consideration to the carrying to completion of
34 investigations into sexual misconduct regardless of resignation status, the maintenance of a publicly accessible
35 classification or designation for all rostered workers who resign before the completion of an investigation into credible
36 accusations of sexual misconduct, and the public reporting of cases in which a rostered worker is removed due to a
37 substantiated allegation of clergy sexual abuse.” By consent “clergy” in the as-read language was changed to read
38 “rostered worker.” At the orders of the day, the chair placed before the body the closure of debate; this prevailed [Yes:
39 609; No: 300]. The resolution was adopted as read [Yes: 852; No: 64].

40 *Committee 6: Pastoral Ministry and Seminaries*

41 The chair recognized Chairman Scott R. Murray, Third Vice-President, to continue the report of his committee.

42 Res. 6-09A, “To Implore Council of Presidents to Fulfill 2019 Resolution 6-03A re Oversight of Specific Ministry
43 Pastors” (*TB*, 3:332), was read and introduced by the committee. The resolution was adopted by voice vote.

44 Res. 6-10, “To Amend Bylaws to Address Seminary Adjunct Faculty” (*TB*, 1:118–20), was read and introduced
45 by the committee.

46 The amendment in *Today’s Business* 3, *TB* 3:357, was moved and seconded, to insert, at *TB* 1:119, after line 47,
47 the following:

(d) No person who has resigned or been removed from the roster of the Synod, or who has not been a communicant member of a congregation of the Synod or of a church body in altar and pulpit fellowship with the Synod for at least two years, may serve as a faculty member or otherwise teach in any manner for a theological seminary of the Synod.

The committee moved to amend the amendment by striking the words “or who has ... for two years.”

It was moved and carried to refer the resolution (carrying both pending amendments) for further review by the committee.

Res. 6-11, “To Embed Church Work Formation and Recruitment in the Culture of the LCMS” (*TB*, 1:120–22), was read and introduced by the committee after an introductory video and presentation by the Rev. Dr. James Baneck, executive director of LCMS Pastoral Formation, regarding the *Set Apart to Serve* initiative. It was moved and carried on a voice vote to cease debate. The resolution was adopted unanimously by voice vote.

The resolution “To Direct Seminaries to Publish Annual Enrollment Numbers Every Fall” (*TB* 4:382–83) was moved from the floor and seconded. It was moved to refer the resolution to the committee; this failed on a voice vote. It was moved and seconded to cease debate; this carried by voice vote. After an unclear voice vote, the resolution was adopted [Yes: 561; No: 337].

Res. 6-12B, “To Amend Bylaws to Reinsert 2007 Pastoral Colloquy Bylaws from Policy Manual” (*TB*, 4:378–80), was read and introduced by the committee, read on p. 379, l. 30, to insert, after “who,” the word “subsequently.”

An amendment to bylaw language proposed from the floor was ruled out of order without prior Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) approval.

It was moved and seconded to cease debate; this carried. The resolution as read was adopted by voice vote.

Res. 6-13, “To Affirm that the Lord has Ordained that Those Who Preach the Gospel Should Make their Living from the Gospel” (*TB*, 1:124–25), was read and introduced by the committee. Without debate, near the orders of the day, the president called for and received closure of debate. The resolution was adopted by voice vote.

At the orders, the convention recessed for lunch.

Session 6 **Tuesday p.m., July 21, 2026**

Midday Prayer

President Harrison having called the convention back to order, the Rev. Dr. Dien A. Taylor, president, Atlantic District, preached on 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 in the Order of Midday Prayer, with Chaplain Daenzer serving as liturgist, Kantor Machemer accompanying, and vocalist Jonathan Busarow and guitarist Andrew Schempf providing special music.

[The entire text of President Taylor’s sermon will be printed in the *2026 Convention Proceedings*.]

Minutes

Taking the chair, President Harrison introduced review of the minutes from Monday’s Sessions 3 and 4. These were adopted by voice vote as presented. (Between the sessions, the queue system was updated to have a privileged “Point of Parliamentary Inquiry” button, orange, and a non-privileged, “Ask an Allowable Question,” blue. The parliamentarian and queue manager also implemented a greater degree of queue preservation across secondary motions.)

Greetings—Concordia Historical Institute

The Rev. Dr. Daniel Harmelink brought greetings and thanks for the support of the Synod for the preservation and proclamation, the treasuring and trumpeting of the Synod’s history, the redeeming work of the risen and ascended Christ in the work and life of the church. The mission of Concordia Historical Institute (CHI) is to call the Synod to remember, truly, who she is. Recalling our history is not only God-pleasing but essential. Preserving and honoring the history of Christ’s saving work among us keeps us from imagining it was by our own work or wisdom that have made us what we are. CHI serves that corporate memory in a variety of ways, treasuring and trumpeting, providing 20,000 linear feet of historical materials, some four million documents. Harmelink invited the delegates to explore their Lutheran history—and to join CHI in treasuring and trumpeting the same—especially as the observance of CHI’s centenary of service approaches next year.

1 *Presentation—Church Relations, Rev. Dr. Jonathan E. Shaw*

2 After a biographical introduction by the President, the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Shaw, director of Church Relations in the
3 Office of the President, presented on the work of his office representing the President of the Synod as the chief
4 ecumenical officer, and on the International Church Relations Conference.

5 Shaw introduced Joseph Ochola Omolo, archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK), which
6 entered into fellowship with the LCMS in 2004. He thanked the LCMS for not bending to the culture and for
7 strengthening ELCK and its neighbors in a journey in which they are not alone. LCMS Church Relations meetings
8 have brought ELCK deeper into the Word and the Lutheran Confessions. He noted his convention's recent unanimous
9 withdrawal from the Lutheran World Federation; leaving has been painful—but better the Word of God than all
10 worldly things. Fellowship with LCMS has real meaning to ELCK—together we proclaim the one Gospel, and look
11 forward to the day when every nation will bow down to Christ and confess him to be Lord. International church body
12 leaders, led by retiring Rev. James Krikava, sang the hymn "I Am Content! My Jesus Ever Lives!" in German, Czech,
13 and Spanish, joined by the convention in English on the last stanza.

14 *Committee 5: Theology and Church Relations*

15 The chair recognized Chairman Brian S. Saunders, president, Iowa East District, to begin the report of his
16 committee.

17 Res. 5-01, "To Recognize Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with Evangelical Lutheran Christian Church of Bolivia"
18 (*TB*, 1:95–97), was read and introduced by the committee. Without debate, the resolution was adopted by voice vote.
19 Dr. Shaw introduced ICEL President Fernández, who addressed the assembly, and his General Secretary; after a warm
20 reception, the convention sang the doxology.

21 Commission on Theology and Church Relations Executive Director Joel Lehenbauer made prefatory comments
22 regarding the next resolution, explaining that the Lutheran Mission—Australia has not yet had its constituting
23 convention, but is expected to recognize fellowship with the LCMS at that time. President Harrison would then declare
24 fellowship, as authorized by bylaw, which would then be ratified by the next LCMS convention.

25 Res. 5-02, "To Support and Encourage Recognition of Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with Lutheran Mission—
26 Australia" (*TB*, 1:97–98), was read and introduced by the committee. Without debate, the resolution was adopted by
27 voice vote and the convention sang the doxology. Lutheran Mission—Australia President Matt Anker addressed the
28 convention.

29 Res. 5-10, "To Request Commission on Theology and Church Relations Report on Human Organ Donation and
30 Transplantation" (*TB*, 1:106), was read and introduced by the committee. Without debate, the resolution was adopted
31 by voice vote.

32 Res. 5-11A, "To Reaffirm Sanctity of Human Life Regarding Practice of In Vitro Fertilization" (*TB*, 2B:293–94),
33 was read and introduced by the committee.

34 It was moved and seconded to amend as found in *TB* 4:385,

35 To insert, at *TB* 2B:293, after line 34, the additional *whereas*:

36 WHEREAS, The practice of IVF commonly uses gametes obtained from donors outside the marital union
37 thus violating the one flesh union between husband and wife and depriving children of their right to their
38 biological mother and father; and

39 And to replace the resolve at *TB* 2B:293, line 42, with the following *resolve*:

40 *Resolved*, That the Synod condemn the practice of IVF especially because of the freezing and destruction
41 of human beings and the introduction of gametes from persons outside the marital union; and be it further

42 It was moved and seconded to amend the amendment by striking the words "and depriving children of their right
43 to their biological mother and father."

44 It was then moved to refer the resolution to the committee; this failed. The committee will continue with this
45 resolution, bearing the two amendments, when it resumes its presentation.

Special Recognition—National and International Church Body Representatives

The Rev. Michael N. Frese, deputy director of LCMS Church Relations, introduced the church body leadership, present with the convention, of sister churches, in fellowship with the Synod, and of associate churches, working toward fellowship with the Synod.

Committee 11: Registration, Credentials, and Elections – Balloting for Other Boards and Commissions

With Fifth Vice-President (East-Southeast Region) Christopher S. Esget assuming the chair, the chair called Committee 11 Chairman James Maxwell to the podium to continue with elections for the Synod's boards and commissions:

Concordia Publishing House (Lay, elect 4, 6-year term)

Position 1 of 4:

Heidi K. Abegg (EN)	239	523	(declared elected)
Jeff Bull (IW)	51		
Thomas R. Halvorson (MT)	196	317	
Mark Hemingway (EN)	113		
Seth R. Hinz (MO)	93		
Noreen L. Linke (RM)	21		
Sarah Rausch (SD)	55		
William M. Thompson II (MO)	43		

Position 2 of 4:

Jeff Bull (IW)	78		
Thomas R. Halvorson (MT)	441		(declared elected)
Mark Hemingway (EN)	132		
Seth R. Hinz (MO)	92		
Noreen L. Linke (RM)	25		
Sarah Rausch (SD)	53		
William M. Thompson II (MO)	38		

Position 3 of 4:

Jeff Bull (IW)	81		
Mark Hemingway (EN)	467		(declared elected)
Seth R. Hinz (MO)	144		
Noreen L. Linke (RM)	43		
Sarah Rausch (SD)	79		
William M. Thompson II (MO)	67		

Position 4 of 4:

Jeff Bull (IW)	102		
Seth R. Hinz (MO)	286	339	360
Noreen L. Linke (RM)	65		
Sarah Rausch (SD)	143	161	
William M. Thompson II (MO)	284	390	520 (declared elected)

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (Ordained/Commissioned, 3-year term)

Michael L. Kumm (SD)	430	556	(declared elected)
Kevin D. Robson (MO)	215		
Blaise C. Sedney (SE)	231	323	

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (Lay, elect 3, 3-year term)

Position 1 of 3:

Jason Behr (SW)	90		
Matthew W. Hurtienne (EN)	92		
Julie A. Johnson (SI)	392	617	(declared elected)
Jonathan H. Kramer (MO)	98		
Gretchen A. Roberts (MDS)	143	238	
Ryan Weir (KS)	60		

Position 2 of 3:

Jason Behr (SW)	56		
Matthew W. Hurtienne (EN)	82		
Jonathan H. Kramer (MO)	295	347	
Gretchen A. Roberts (MDS)	409	535	(declared elected)
Ryan Weir (KS)	45		

Position 3 of 3:

Jason Behr (SW)	81		
Matthew W. Hurtienne (EN)	144		
Julie A. Johnson (SI)			
Jonathan H. Kramer (MO)	548		(declared elected)
Ryan Weir (KS)	108		

LCMS Foundation (Ordained, 6-year term)

Mark L. Huff (MI)	250		
Todd C. Riordan (IN)	630		(declared elected)

LCMS Foundation (Lay, 6-year term)

Glenn R. Pittsford (TX)	160		
Franklin E. Simek Jr. (SI)	310	383	
Mark O. Swenson (MNS)	401	481	(declared elected)

Concordia University System (Ordained, 6-year term)

Jacob C. Bobby (SD)	236		
Matthew E. Borrasso (SE)	154		
Mark S. Nuckols (SW)	496		(declared elected)

Board of Regents, Fort Wayne (Ordained, elect 2, 6-year term)

Position 1 of 2:

Randall L. Golter (IE)	97		
Timothy M. Klinkenberg (PSW)	174	197	
Korey D. Maas (MI)	343	505	(declared elected)
David P. Ramirez (SW)	207	187	
Jeffrey E. Skopak (SE)	68		

Position 2 of 2:

Randall L. Golter (IE)	101		
Timothy M. Klinkenberg (PSW)	313	409	
David P. Ramirez (SW)	385	484	(declared elected)
Jeffrey E. Skopak (SE)	85		

1 *Board of Regents, Fort Wayne (Commissioned, 6-year term)*

2 Matthew C. Janssen (MO) 245
3 **Mark W. Meehl (NEB)** **626** (declared elected)
4

5 *Board of Regents, Fort Wayne (Lay, 6-year term)*

6 Elizabeth R. Killinger (TX) 266 407
7 Michael D. Lange (PSW) 225
8 **Christian A. Preus (MNS)** 401 **486** (declared elected)

9 *Special Recognition—Newly Elected and Outgoing Synod Board of Directors Members*

10 President Harrison, resuming the chair, recognized members of the Board of Directors returning (Grams,
11 Lohmeyer, and Yow); outgoing chairman Christian A. Preus, who has served a total of 25 years on the board; and
12 incoming member John Edson.

13 *Committee 10: Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution*

14 The chair recognized Chairman Robert D. Beinke, president, New England District, to begin the report of his
15 committee.

16 Res. 10-04A, “To Seek Unity and Peace in the Synod and to Establish a Practical Statement for God-Pleasing Use
17 of Digital Communications” (TB, 3:353–54), was read and introduced by the committee.

18 It was moved and seconded to add a standing rule that no one can make an amendment until there have been at
19 least six speakers or there is no one else left in the queue to speak. It was moved and carried by voice vote to cease
20 debate on the standing rule. The motion to add the standing rule failed [Yes: 365; No: 494].

21 Debate continued on Res. 10-04A. It was moved to amend on p. 354, l. 16, to replace the word “disagreements”
22 with “conflicts.” It was moved and seconded to cease debate on the amendment; this carried. After a voice vote and
23 call for division, the amendment failed [Yes: 269; No: 617]. It was moved and seconded to cease debate; this carried.
24 Res. 10-04A was adopted without amendment by voice vote.

25 Res. 10-01A, “To Seek Commission on Theology and Church Relations Opinion regarding Usage of Matthew
26 18:15–20” (TB, 3:350–51), was read and introduced by the committee. The resolution was adopted [Yes: 502; No:
27 396].

28 Res. 10-05A, “To Amend Bylaw 4.2.4 regarding Installation of District Presidents” (TB, 3:354), was read and
29 introduced by the committee. First Vice-President Lange assumed the chair so the President could address the
30 question. It was moved and seconded to strike on p. 354, ll. 41–42, the phrase “Except in extenuating circumstance(s),”
31 which amendment had been approved by the CCM. It was moved and seconded to cease debate on the amendment;
32 this carried [Yes: 689; No: 208]. The amendment failed [Yes: 413; No: 487]. It was moved to cease debate; this carried
33 [Yes: 686; No: 189]. Res. 10-05A was adopted without amendment [Yes: 729; No: 164].

34 It was moved to reconsider the amendment to Res. 10-05A. It was moved and seconded to call the question on the
35 motion to reconsider, which carried by consent. The motion to reconsider was adopted [Yes: 526; No: 362]. Debate
36 resumed on the amendment to Res. 10-05A, to strike on p. 354, ll. 41–42, “Except in extenuating circumstance(s).”

37 The President suggested the amendment be altered to reverse the strike and add, after “circumstance(s),” “as
38 determined by the President.” This had not been approved by the CCM and was therefore out of order. The orders of
39 the day were called. Committee 10 will continue its presentation with Res. 10-05A and its amendment pending.

40 *Committee 6: Pastoral Ministry and Seminaries*

41 With President Harrison resuming the chair, the chair recognized Chairman Scott R. Murray, Third Vice-President,
42 to continue the report of his committee.

43 The committee continued with Res. 6-10, “To Amend Bylaws to Address Seminary Adjunct Faculty” (TB, 1:118–
44 20). Pending with it was the amendment in *Today’s Business* 3, TB 3:357, to insert, at TB 1:119, after line 47, the
45 following:

46 (d) No person who has resigned or been removed from the roster of the Synod, or who has not been a
47 communicant member of a congregation of the Synod or of a church body in altar and pulpit fellowship with

the Synod for at least two years, may serve as a faculty member or otherwise teach in any manner for a theological seminary of the Synod.

Also pending was the committee's amendment to the amendment by striking the words "or who has ... for two years." It was moved and carried to cease debate on the amendment to the amendment. The amendment to the amendment was adopted. It was moved and carried to cease debate on the amendment. The amendment failed [Yes: 209; No: 650]. It was moved and carried to cease debate on the resolution. Res. 6-10 was adopted without amendment by voice vote.

Res. 6-14, "To Respectfully Decline Overtures" (*TB*, 1:125), was read and introduced by the committee, it being read to remove Ov. 6-74. It was moved and seconded to cease debate; this carried. The resolution was adopted by voice vote.

Committee 5: Theology and Church Relations

Finding the convention ahead of schedule, the chair recognized Chairman Brian S. Saunders, president, Iowa East District, to continue the report of his committee, with the Res. 5-11A, "To Reaffirm Sanctity of Human Life Regarding Practice of In Vitro Fertilization" (*TB*, 2B:293–94), bearing two pending amendments:

The first was to amend as found in *TB* 4:385,

To insert, at *TB* 2B:293, after line 34, the additional *whereas*:

WHEREAS, The practice of IVF commonly uses gametes obtained from donors outside the marital union thus violating the one flesh union between husband and wife and depriving children of their right to their biological mother and father; and

And to replace the resolve at *TB* 2B:293, line 42, with the following *resolve*:

Resolved, That the Synod condemn the practice of IVF especially because of the freezing and destruction of human beings and the introduction of gametes from persons outside the marital union; and be it further

The second was to amend the amendment by striking the words "and depriving children of their right to their biological mother and father." It was moved and carried to cease debate on the amendment to the amendment. The amendment to the amendment was adopted [Yes: 522; No: 357].

It was moved and carried by voice vote to cease debate on the amendment. The amendment failed [Yes: 363; No: 542]. It was moved and carried by voice vote to cease debate on Res. 5-11A. Res. 5-11A was adopted without amendment by voice vote.

Committee 11: Registration, Credentials, and Elections – Balloting for Other Boards and Commissions

With Second Vice-President (Central Region) Benjamin Ball assuming the chair, the chair called Committee 11 Chairman James Maxwell to the podium to continue with elections for the Synod's boards of regents and the Commission on Worship:

Board of Regents, St. Louis (Ordained, elect 2, 6-year term)

Position 1 of 2:

Joel A. Brondos (CI)	345	463	(declared elected)
Warren W. Graff (RM)	95		
Bruce E. Keseman (SI)	142	165	
Richard C. Rudowske Jr. (MO)	157	223	
Harald G. Tomesch (SW)	87		

Position 2 of 2:

Warren W. Graff (RM)	102		
Bruce E. Keseman (SI)	415	560	(declared elected)
Richard C. Rudowske Jr. (MO)	259	299	
Harald G. Tomesch (SW)	87		

1	<i>Board of Regents, St. Louis (Commissioned, 6-year term)</i>				
2	Sarah E. Gaffney (SI)	283			
3	Michael S. Staub (TX)	585			(declared elected)
4					
5	<i>Board of Regents, St. Louis (Lay, 6-year term)</i>				
6	Michelle M. Kazmierczak (IN)	320			
7	Noreen L. Linke (RM)	87			
8	Mark O. Stern (NI)	457			(declared elected)
9					
10	<i>Board of Regents, River Forest (Ordained, 3-year term)</i>				
11	Matthew D. Bean (SE)	122			
12	Rene G. Castillero (SI)	166			
13	Lawrence R. Rast Jr. (IN)	576			(declared elected)
14					
15	<i>Board of Regents, River Forest (Commissioned, 3-year term)</i>				
16	Jeremy T. Geidel (NEB)	276	373		
17	Nathanael Hahn (WY)	412	490		(declared elected)
18	Paul R. Steinhaus (NW)	176			
19					
20	<i>Board of Regents, River Forest (Lay, elect 2, 3-year term)</i>				
21	<i>Position 1 of 2:</i>				
22	Alicia K. Dietrich (SI)	287	370	444	(declared elected)
23	David Walz (NI)	308	388	403	
24	Alison C. Witte (OH)	100			
25	Mark D. Wolfrum (NI)	159	104		
26	<i>Position 2 of 2:</i>				
27	David Walz (NI)	487			(declared elected)
28	Alison C. Witte (OH)	95			
29	Mark D. Wolfrum (NI)	284			
30					
31	<i>Board of Regents, Irvine (Ordained, 3-year term)</i>				
32	Brian L. Kachelmeier (TX)	558			(declared elected)
33	Elroi Reimnitz (PSW)	110			
34	Muluneh Taye (CNH)	189			
35					
36	<i>Board of Regents, Irvine (Commissioned, 3-year term)</i>				
37	Robert S. Fogo (TX)	399			
38	Sarah E. Gaffney (SI)	449			(declared elected)
39					
40	<i>Board of Regents, Irvine (Lay, elect 2, 3-year term)</i>				
41	<i>Position 1 of 2:</i>				
42	Harry Edmon (NOW)	70			
43	Laura G. Hemminger (NOW)	297	379	473	(declared elected)
44	Gary C. Nelson (CNH)	249	261	360	
45	Brian T. Yamabe (CNH)	241	212		

Position 2 of 2:

Harry Edmon (NOW)	83		
Gary C. Nelson (CNH)	377	331	
Brian T. Yamabe (CNH)	385	509	(declared elected)

Board of Regents, Seward (Ordained, 3-year term)

Scott T. Adle (NEB)	527		(declared elected)
Luther C. Biggs (NEB)	128		
John David K. Zischke (MDS)	182		

Board of Regents, Seward (Commissioned, 3-year term)

Craig A. Ernstmeyer (MO)	352	442	(declared elected)
Jay A. Krause (SI)	341	395	
Alan P. Runge (NI)	141		

Board of Regents, Seward (Lay, elect 2, 3-year term)

Position 1 of 2:

Dan Buman (NEB)	95		
Christopher P. Heins (MO)	318	426	(declared elected)
Bruce D. Schultz (KS)	153	155	
Douglas Tewes (NEB)	199	256	
Stan Ullerich (IW)	68		

The chair announced that following the service the convention would stand in recess until tomorrow.

Responsive Prayer

Chaplain Sean Daenzer led the convention in the Order of Responsive Prayer, with the text, Isaiah 25:6–9.

John W. Sias, *Secretary*