

Section 6 – Overtures

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FLOOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS - 2009

#1 = Governance and Structure

<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Lay</u>	<u>Commissioned</u>	<u>Youth</u>
Chair Jonathan Rockey St John Palmer, AK	Jim Kuhlmann St John Seaview, WA	Don Lorenz Trinity Hillsboro OR	TBD
Jim Sprengle Ascension Portland, OR	Sharon Melheim Holy Cross Portland, OR	Dan Seim Bethlehem Aloha, OR	XXXXXXXXXX
Mark Heuser Grace Vancouver, WA	Tracey Conteno Zion Portland, OR	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
Mark Hoelter Trinity Portland, OR	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX

Reports: A-L

Chairman:

Rev. Jonathan Rockey
 St. John Lutheran Church
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1 **OVERTURE: 1-01**

2
3 **TO PROVIDE FOR MORE EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION AT DISTRICT**
4 **AND SYNODICAL CONVENTIONS**

5
6 WHEREAS, God has called His people to be workers in His kingdom as Commissioned
7 Ministers (teachers, Directors of Christian Education, Family Life
8 Ministers, etc.); and

9
10 WHEREAS, Commissioned Ministers are looked upon to provide leadership in many
11 schools, congregations, and agencies of the Lutheran Church – Missouri
12 Synod; and

13
14 WHEREAS, there has been a long tradition of service from such Commissioned
15 Ministers; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the Synodical Handbook does not allow such individuals to serve as
18 voting delegates at either District or Synodical Conventions; and

19
20 WHEREAS, Commissioned Ministers are allowed to be advisory delegates, to the ratio
21 of one Commissioned Minister per sixty (60) rostered Commissioned
22 Ministers in each district, at Synodical Conventions (2007 Synodical
23 Handbook 3.1.3.1), therefore, be it

24
25 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District in convention memorialize the Synod to revise
26 the constitution to allow Commissioned Ministers to serve as voting
27 members at District and Synodical Conventions, and therefore be if finally

28
29 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District in convention memorialize Synod to allow for
30 one voting commissioned minister per sixty (60) rostered commissioned
31 ministers in each district, at Synodical and District Conventions.

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35 Submitted by: Northwest District Board of Directors
36 Rev. Clemens Pera, Chairman
37 Rev. Paul Linnemann, Secretary

1 **OVERTURE: 1-02**

2
3 **TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE ON SYNOD**
4 **STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE**

5
6 WHEREAS, the Gospel is God's precious gift to His people, and sharing this Gospel
7 effectively with the people He loves must be the church's top priority; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the Gospel message is unchanging, yet the world in which we live is rapidly
10 changing and requires the organization of the church to adopt practices and
11 structures that enhance the Gospel's proclamation; and,

12
13 WHEREAS, the present polity of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod has contributed to
14 strife and a party spirit and inhibits the Gospel witness; and,

15
16 WHEREAS, the President's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and
17 Governance has been working with Synod and District leaders to design
18 changes that better support the mission and ministry of the Gospel;
19 therefore be it

20
21 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District in convention support the work of the Blue
22 Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance; and be it finally

23
24 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District in convention call upon the people of the
25 Northwest District to be involved in prayer for this important effort and for
26 the convocation to be held immediately prior to the 2010 Synodical
27 Convention.

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31 Submitted by: Northwest District Board of Directors
32 Rev. Clemens Pera, Chairman
33 Rev. Paul Linnemann, Secretary

1 **OVERTURE: 1-03**

2
3 **TO RETAIN LICENSED DEACON PROGRAM**

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5
6 WHEREAS, small congregations and preaching stations in Alaska and other parts
7 of the Northwest District have been wonderfully blessed through the Word
8 and Sacrament ministries of licensed deacons; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the Special Ministries Pastoral Program (SMPP) is very expensive and,
11 as presently constituted, cannot supply pastoral leadership to those
12 Congregations now being served by licensed deacons; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the present Leadership Development Process (LAP) program of the
15 Northwest District continues to provide theological education relevant to
16 congregations and preaching stations in the District; and for training
17 licensed deacons to serve in these settings, therefore, be it

18
19 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District in convention memorialize the Synod at
20 its 2010 convention to retain the use of licensed deacons to serve ministry
21 settings that cannot afford a pastor.

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25 St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Portland
26 Karen Wrye, President
27 Joanne Carlson, Secretary
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1 **OVERTURE: 1-04**

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3 **TO EXERCISE APPROPRIATE CARE IN CONSIDERING STRUCTURE**
4 **CHANGES**

5 WHEREAS, In 2005 a Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance was
6 appointed to develop preliminary proposals on Synod Structure and
7 Governance by August 2008; and

8 WHEREAS, The Task Force's preliminary proposals of August 2008 were far-reaching
9 in scope and significant in import; and

10 WHEREAS, Experience teaches that maximum attention must be given to detail and
11 wording in making adjustments or changes that impinge on structure; and

12 WHEREAS, Members of Synod need to ensure that responsibility and accountability are
13 not separated in any changes; and

14 WHEREAS, Recommendations need to be introduced where responsibility and
15 accountability are currently separated; and

16 WHEREAS, Our history teaches that some changes to our Bylaws and Constitution have
17 not been fully evaluated before implementation, thus having unforeseen
18 cause and effect results; and

19 WHEREAS, The Synod would do well to proceed with prayerful and appropriate care in
20 considering any changes; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Northwest District memorialize the Synod not to adopt any of the
22 Task Force's recommendations unless the Task Force has made available
23 to every member of Synod the precise language it proposes for any and all
24 Constitution and Bylaw changes, as well as the complete text of any
25 enabling resolutions that the Task Force may propose to help implement
26 the changes it advocates, and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Northwest District memorialize the Synod not to adopt any
28 changes to the Constitution at the 2010 convention, thereby giving a 3-year
29 period of bylaw changes to be implemented fully first, and be it finally

30 RESOLVED, That the Northwest District respectfully requests that the Task Force's final
31 report be posted on the Synod's website right after the Task Force submits
32 it for inclusion in the 2010 Convention Workbook, so that the final form
33 of this important report can be available for maximum study and scrutiny
34 throughout the Synod prior to the convention.

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37 Hope, Idaho Falls

1 **OVERTURE: 1-05**

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3 **TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS BY WHICH COMMISSIONED MINISTERS MAY**
4 **BE ELECTED DELEGATES FOR *DISTRICT***
5

6 WHEREAS, Commissioned ministers are the only members of Lutheran Church –
7 Missouri Synod congregations that may not serve as voting delegates to its district
8 conventions. While many have recognized that this is basically unfair no one has
9 offered a proposal that has been found acceptable to correct it. As a compromise
10 commissioned ministers have been given advisory status with no voting rights.
11

12 WHEREAS, In many of our congregations today we face the situation of non-rostered
13 individuals filling roles traditionally filled by commissioned ministers. A school
14 with ten teachers may have six rostered commissioned ministers and four lay
15 teachers. The four lay teachers can be elected as a congregation’s lay voting
16 delegate while the six commissioned ministers can never be elected as a voting
17 delegate.
18

19 WHEREAS, The issue of voting by commissioned ministers has been one that the Synod
20 has attempted to address many times over the years without success. The
21 difficulty has arisen over our Synod’s practice of maintaining a balance between
22 clergy and lay voters. Commissioned ministers do not fit comfortably in either
23 category. This resolution is crafted in such a way as to respect that balance and
24 impact it as little as possible.
25

26 WHEREAS, A secondary issue related to this is the consideration that all congregations
27 should be represented equally. How would congregations that have no
28 commissioned ministers be fairly represented? This resolution maintains that as
29 much as possible all congregations should have an equal voice in selecting
30 delegates regardless if their particular congregation is served by commissioned
31 ministers or not.
32

33 RESOLVED, that there be a voting commissioned minister from each circuit for district
34 conventions, and be it further
35

36 RESOLVED, that the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in convention adopt the
37 following process for selecting commissioned ministers to serve as voting
38 delegates to district conventions.
39

- 40 1. *Each circuit shall meet at the call of the counselor to elect its commissioned*
41 *minister not later than six months prior to the opening day of the district*
42 *convention.*
43 2. *In the announcement for the meeting the circuit counselor shall call for*
44 *nominations of commissioned ministers to be elected as the circuit voting delegate*
45 *from that circuit. Any member of Synod who is also a member of the circuit may*
46 *make a nomination.*

- 1 3. *Elections shall be by written ballot.*
- 2 4. *The privilege of voting shall be exercised by one pastor and one layperson from*
3 *each member congregation of the circuit, both of whom shall have been selected*
4 *in the manner prescribed by the congregation.*
- 5 5. *Multiple parishes shall be entitled to a lay vote from each member congregation.*
- 6 6. *Each voter may write in the name of two commissioned minister nominees on the*
7 *initial ballot. The three commissioned ministers (or more, in case of a tie vote for*
8 *third place) who received the highest number of votes in this preliminary ballot*
9 *shall be placed on the next ballot.*
- 10 7. *On the next ballot each voter shall vote for only one candidate. Balloting shall*
11 *continue with the candidate receiving the least votes being removed from each*
12 *succeeding ballot until one commissioned minister shall have received a simple*
13 *majority of all votes cast, whereupon he or she shall be declared the*
14 *commissioned minister delegate.*
- 15 8. *The congregation from which the commissioned minister delegate has been*
16 *elected shall then be removed from consideration for supplying an alternate*
17 *commissioned minister delegate to that particular convention unless there are no*
18 *other commissioned ministers available from other congregations.*
- 19 9. *All other commissioned ministers who received at least one vote on the initial*
20 *ballot shall be eligible for election as the alternate.*
- 21 10. *Each voter shall now vote for only one candidate.*
- 22 11. *Balloting shall continue with the candidate receiving the least votes being*
23 *removed from each succeeding ballot until one commissioned minister shall have*
24 *received a simple majority of all votes cast, whereupon he shall be declared the*
25 *alternate commissioned minister delegate.*
- 26 12. *The counselor shall report the results of the election to the secretary of the district*
27 *in writing immediately after said election.*
- 28 13. *If neither the delegate nor the alternate can serve, the vacancy may be filled by*
29 *the district president in consultation with the respective circuit counselor.*
- 30 14. *Circuits that have no commissioned ministers that hold membership in circuit*
31 *congregations will have no commissioned minister delegate for the district*
32 *convention.*
- 33 15. *All direct costs for the commissioned minister in participating in the district*
34 *convention shall be born by the district.*
- 35 16. *The voting delegates shall replace the previous advisory delegate status of*
36 *commissioned ministers. And, be it further*

37
38 RESOLVED, that the Commission on Constitutional Matters shall make such changes to
39 the by laws of Synod as are necessary in order to implement this resolution. And,
40 be it finally
41

42 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in
43 convention submit the following overture to the regular convention of the
44 Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in 2010.
45

46 Submitted by: Trinity Lutheran Church & School, Portland, OR

1 **OVERTURE: 1-06**

2
3 **TO ESTABLISH A PROCESS BY WHICH COMMISSIONED MINISTERS MAY**
4 **BE ELECTED DELEGATES FOR SYNODICAL CONVENTIONS**

5
6 WHEREAS, This resolution presupposes the adoption of the resolution “To Establish a
7 Process by Which Commissioned Ministers May Be Elected Delegates for
8 District Conventions”. Be it

9
10 RESOLVED, that the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in convention adopt the
11 following process for selecting commissioned ministers to serve as voting
12 delegates to synodical conventions:

- 13
14 1. *Each district shall elect (a) commissioned minister(s) at its district convention to*
15 *serve as (a) voting delegate(s) to the Synodical convention.*
16 2. *Each commissioned minister who has served as a voting delegate to the district*
17 *convention shall be considered as nominated to be elected as a voting delegate to*
18 *the synod convention unless they remove themselves for consideration by*
19 *notifying the district secretary.*
20 3. *Each commissioned minister who receives a majority of the votes cast shall be*
21 *elected as delegate to the Synodical convention.*
22 4. *If further balloting is necessary the ballot shall contain two names for every*
23 *remaining position to be elected determined by who received the highest number*
24 *of votes on the first ballot. On all subsequent ballots the commissioned minister*
25 *with the lowest number of votes shall be removed from the ballot.*
26 5. *All districts shall be entitled to at least one commissioned minister voting*
27 *delegate.*
28 6. *Districts with more than ten non-exceptional circuits shall be entitled to one extra*
29 *commissioned minister delegate and one more in every multiple of four above*
30 *that. (i.e. districts with 11 circuits will have two delegates, if there are 15 eligible*
31 *circuits they receive 3 delegates, etc.)*
32 7. *Non-exceptional circuits are those that meet all the numerical numbers in bylaw*
33 *5.1.1 without exception.*
34 8. *Six months prior to the district convention the secretary of synod shall determine*
35 *and notify each district how many commissioned ministers each district is entitled*
36 *to elect. And be it further*

37
38 RESOLVED, that the Commission on Constitutional Matters shall make such
39 changes to the bylaws of Synod as are necessary in order to implement this
40 resolution. And, be it finally

41
42 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri
43 Synod in convention submit the following overture to the regular convention of
44 the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in 2010.

45 Submitted by: Trinity Lutheran Church & School, Portland, Oregon

1 **OVERTURE: 1-07**

2
3 **TO CREATE ELECTORAL CIRCUITS FOR THE 2010 LCMS CONVENTION**

4
5 WHEREAS, Synodical Bylaw 3.1.2a states that “an electoral circuit shall consist either
6 of one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by each
7 district on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates
8 shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an
9 aggregate communicant membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000;” and

10
11 WHEREAS, a number of circuits in the Northwest District do not meet the
12 communicant membership requirement; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the LCMS President has encouraged the Districts of the LCMS to limit
15 their requests for exceptions; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the creation of electoral circuits does not change the configuration of the
18 District’s visitation circuits; therefore, be it

19
20 RESOLVED, that the following electoral circuits be formed for the purpose of electing
21 delegates to the 2010 LCMS Convention:

- 22
- 23 • Visitation Circuits #1 and #2 be combined
 - 24 • Trinity, Cottage Grove, OR be moved from Visitation Circuit #2 to Visitation
25 Circuit #3
 - 26 • Church of All Nations, Hong Kong be moved from Visitation Circuit #8 and
27 Hope, Springfield, OR from Visitation Circuit #3 to Visitation Circuit # 4
 - 28 • Calvary, Sunnyside, WA; Messiah, Prosser, WA; and St. John’s, Benton City,
29 WA be moved from Visitation Circuit #13 to Visitation Circuit #14
 - 30 • Bethlehem, Yakima, WA; Mt. Olive, Yakima, WA; and Peace, Selah, WA be
31 moved from Visitation circuit #13 to Visitation Circuit #16
 - 32 • Trinity, Mt. Vernon, WA be moved from Circuit #18 to Visitation Circuit #17
 - 33 • St. Luke, Federal Way be moved from Visitation Circuit # 24 to Visitation Circuit
34 #20
- 35
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38 Submitted by: Northwest District Board of Directors
39 Rev. Clemens Pera, Chairman
40 Rev. Paul Linnemann, Secretary

1 **OVERTURE: 1-08**

2
3 **TO MEMORIALIZE THE SYNOD TO REVISE BYLAW 4.3.2**

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5
6 WHEREAS, Synodical bylaw 4.3.2 states that the District Treasurer shall be a
7 *layperson* (italics added) elected or appointed according to the bylaws of
8 the district, and

9
10 WHEREAS, with the ever increasing number of second career people entering pastoral
11 ministry, some of whom have served as officers in financial institutions,
12 and

13
14 WHEREAS, the Church seeks to utilize the gifts of the most qualified people available
15 for a position, such as treasurer; therefore, be it

16
17 RESOLVED, that the NW District of the LCMS memorialize the Synod to revise
18 Bylaw 4.3.2 as follows:
19 Proposed Changes (wording unchanged is in normal type; old wording to
20 be deleted is crossed out)

21
22 Bylaw 4.3.2

23 Each district shall have a treasurer who shall be a layperson and shall be elected
24 or appointed as the bylaws of the district may provide; and be it finally

25
26 RESOLVED, that if this overture is passed by the Synod in Convention the Northwest
27 District will change its Bylaw 4.1.3 to be in agreement with the changes
28 made at the Synod in Convention in 2010.

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33 Submitted by: Northwest District Board of Directors

34 Rev. Clemens Pera, Chairman

35 Rev. Paul Linnemann, Secretary

1 **OVERTURE: 1-09**

2
3 **IMPROVEMENT TO THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN DISTRICT**
4 **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

5 WHEREAS, we have begun to realize that we have not always empowered laity to be
6 full partners in the churches mission, and

7 WHEREAS, part of the Christian's responsibility is financial, and

8 WHEREAS, our current financial reports inhibit this full partnership, because;

9 a. The Financial Reports included in the District Convention Workbook
10 are formatted to meet Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAPP)
11 non-profit reporting requirements, and that format does not lend itself to
12 understanding of the actual income and expenses numbers, or their
13 relationship to budget, and b. This format uses different terminology and
14 titles than what is understood by someone with business financial reports
15 experience typically found in a congregation, and c. It is not possible to
16 amend the existing format due to it being in accordance with GAAP
17 regulations for non-profit organization reporting, and d. This format does
18 not reflect the capabilities of commercial bookkeeping software, and

19
20 WHEREAS, any improvements to allow a better understanding of the Districts financial
21 reports could be served by providing information in a different report
22 format, i.e. business format, similar to that used for financial management
23 in district offices and congregations. And

24
25 WHEREAS, such information is available in the District accounting system and would
26 be easy to provide, and

27
28 WHEREAS, Synod Bylaw 1.5.13 requires "full disclosure" of "financial books and
29 records" to any member congregation this would be an appropriate way to
30 do so on a routine basis, and

31
32 WHEREAS, it would seem meet, right and salutary that the District Financial Report
33 should include information that can be recognized by the laity and further
34 explained by the congregational Treasurer or bookkeeper as needed, and

35
36 WHEREAS, the salaries of Synod elected officials is required to be published annually,
37 and

38 WHEREAS, this would be a good way to make such information readily attainable by
39 NOW District congregations, and

40
41 WHEREAS, our brothers and sisters in the Wyoming District of LC-MS, and even the
42 Evangelical Lutheran Synod, provide financial information in the manner
43 there suggested as a meaningful way to keep their sources of income
44 informed on how their gifts are being spent on the mission of the church;
45 therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, that a set of reports, with one report containing yearly Income and
2 Expenses by account category, one report showing annual income and
3 expenses to annual budget, and a Balance Sheet that shows Profit/Loss for
4 each year that is carried over into the next fiscal year. Examples of
5 account category detail are appended, and be it further
6
7 RESOLVED, that preferably the second report could show annual income of elected
8 officials of the District; and be it finally
9
10 RESOLVED, that the convention Financial Report also contain an index of its contents
11 by page number. *Appendix Category Examples Income: Parish offerings,*
12 *Parish Assessments, cash gifts, sale of assets, other, etc. Expenses: Internal District*
13 *Travel, Synodical (External) Business Travel, Conference Travel, District*
14 *Conference/Convention, Salaries & Wages, Payroll Taxes, Employee Benefits, Office*
15 *Administration, Contracts, Congregational Support, District Programs, Ecclesiastical*
16 *Supervision, Direct Mission Support in District, Tithe to Synod, etc. END*
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20 Submitted by Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Albany, OR. Mr. Ken Radford, President

1 **OVERTURE: 1-10**

2
3 **TO MEMORIALIZE SYNOD TO EXERCISE DUE DILIGENCE**
4 **IN IMPLEMENTING STRUCTURAL CHANGES**

5
6 WHEREAS, we are living in a rapidly and constantly changing culture where the
7 institutional church can easily find itself well behind the curve of cultural
8 relevance; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance,
11 appointed by President Gerald Kieschnick in 2005 has been hard at work
12 preparing recommendations aimed at preparing our synod for cultural
13 relevance in a new era; and

14
15 WHEREAS, our desire, as a synod, should be to ensure that we are, in fact, on the
16 cutting-edge of society, ready to address Christ's mission to our post-
17 churched culture; and

18
19 WHEREAS, we want to be certain we do not adopt 'Guttenberg' ways for our 'Google'
20 world; therefore be it

21
22 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District respectfully requests that the Task Force's final
23 report be posted on the Synod's website right after the Task Force submits
24 it for inclusion in the 2010 Convention Workbook, so that the final form
25 of this important report can be available for maximum review and critique
26 throughout the Synod prior to the convention; and be it further

27
28 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District memorialize the Synod not to adopt any of the
29 Task Force's recommendations unless and until the Task Force has made
30 available, to every member of Synod, the precise language it proposes for
31 any and all Constitution and Bylaw changes, as well as the complete text
32 of any enabling resolutions that the Task Force may propose to help
33 implement the changes it advocates; and be it finally

34
35 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District memorialize the Synod not to adopt any
36 changes to the Constitution at the 2010 convention, thereby giving a 3-
37 year period for bylaw changes to be fully implemented first.

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39 Respectfully submitted by: Peace Lutheran Church, Chehalis, WA
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1 **OVERTURE: 1-11**

2
3 **TO MEMORIALIZE SYNOD TO ABANDON ITS 'GUTTENBERG' WAYS AND**
4 **EMBRACE OUR 'GOOGLE' WORLD**

5
6 WHEREAS, futurist Leonard Sweet recently addressed a conference of Northwest District
7 Pastors concerning the need for churches to come into the
8 'Google' age; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance, appointed by
11 President Gerald Kieschnick in 2005 has identified a need for being better
12 stewards of the resources God has given us ("WALKING TOGETHER: THE LCMS
13 FUTURE" p.3 & 4); and
14

15 WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance, appointed by
16 President Gerald Kieschnick in 2005 has suggested the need for "focused"
17 conventions which "focus on theology, contemporary issues, common confession
18 and mission, nurture, inspiration, and celebration" with "limited business and
19 reports" ("WALKING TOGETHER: THE LCMS FUTURE" p. 4); and
20

21 WHEREAS, futurist Leonard Sweet has commented that "There is a whole new culture out
22 there that is wired very differently by digital electronic culture" (see
23 [http://www.cbn.com/spirituallife/biblestudyandtheology/perspectives/carpenter-](http://www.cbn.com/spirituallife/biblestudyandtheology/perspectives/carpenter-sweet_starbucks.aspx)
24 [sweet_starbucks.aspx](http://www.cbn.com/spirituallife/biblestudyandtheology/perspectives/carpenter-sweet_starbucks.aspx)); and
25

26 WHEREAS, the digital electronic means exist whereby all Synodical convention business
27 could be conducted without the need for costly travel and lodging; and
28

29 WHEREAS, every decision of the Synod in convention affects every congregation in the
30 Synod and reflects equally on every congregation in the Synod; therefore be it
31

32 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District memorialize the Synod to embrace our 'Google'
33 world and make full use of our "whole new culture out there that is wired very
34 differently by digital electronic culture" by conducting all Synodical convention
35 business via digital electronic means thereby eliminating the need for the expense
36 of travel and lodging in connection with convention business; and be it further
37

38 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District memorialize the Synod to allow every congregation in
39 Synod to participate in Synodical convention business with one lay delegate and
40 one pastoral delegate; and be it finally
41

42 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District memorialize the Synod to continue with "focused"
43 conventions of a more conventional sort which "focus on theology, contemporary
44 issues, common confession and mission, nurture, inspiration, and celebration,"
45 and do not contain any business whatsoever.
46

47 Respectfully submitted by: Peace Lutheran Church, Chehalis, WA

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FLOOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS - 2009

#2 = Theology, Practice and District Ministries

<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Lay</u>	<u>Commissioned</u>	<u>Youth</u>
Chair Paul Doellinger Faith Monmouth, OR	Ed Grassel River of Life Troutdale, OR	Jeff Allen Hope, Seattle, WA	TBD
Gary Clark St John Eagle Point, OR	Art Freitag Memorial Bremerton, WA	Linda Kuhlmann St John Seaview, WA	XXXXXXXXXX
Toby Joeckel Mt Olive Yakima, WA	James Lee Light of Christ Federal Way, WA	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX
Terry Merrill Immanuel Albany, OR	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXX

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Reports: M-Z

Chairman:

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1 **OVERTURE: 2-01**

2 **STEWARDS OF CREATION**

3
4 WHEREAS, we acknowledge God as the almighty maker and sustainer of his gracious
5 gift of creation, and that he entrusts care giving of his creation to
6 humankind; Psalm 24: 1, Genesis 1, Genesis 2: 15, First Article of
7 Apostles' Creed and its Explanation by Martin Luther; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the responsibility to be good stewards of the earth serves the sustainability
10 of life and is to reflect God's love and care for the earth which he
11 marvelously made Genesis 1: 31; and

12
13 WHEREAS, care for the earth is not merely a scientific, social, or political issue but is a
14 profoundly spiritual issue; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the effects of sin in the world is evident in humankind's neglect and
17 exploitation of the earth and its resources; and

18
19 WHEREAS, wasteful use of energy and natural resources, emissions of harmful
20 pollutants, and other failures of stewardship have created serious
21 environmental challenges that threaten the welfare of God's creation and of
22 human communities around the world, be it

23
24 RESOLVED, that we as individual Christians commit ourselves to be faithful creation
25 caregivers as we consider such personal matters as the level of our
26 consumption, waste of environmental resources, and any despoiling of
27 creation's beauty and bounty; and be it finally

28
29 RESOLVED, that congregations challenge themselves to explore the biblical
30 foundations for the stewardship of creation, to be examples of and
31 advocates for caring of God's creation, and to celebrate God's creation
32 and the importance of our caring for it in our prayers and in other liturgical
33 and worship opportunities.

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36 Submitted by:
37 Northwest District Board of Directors
38 Rev. Clemens Pera, Chairman
39 Rev. Paul Linnemann, Secretary
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1 **OVERTURE: 2-02 RESOLUTION REGARDING END OF LIFE ISSUES**

2
3 WHEREAS, Life is a gift given by God for God's purposes and to God's glory, and

4
5 WHEREAS, Life is overshadowed by sin so that which was intended for good can become a
6 burden and that which was intended to reflect the Creator and an ultimate
7 purpose reveals primarily the creature and immediate concerns, and

8
9 WHEREAS, Life has been redeemed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus
10 Christ, so that even though it continues under the shadow of sin joy is restored,
11 the Creator's hand is seen and the fullness of redemption awaited in hope, and

12
13 WHEREAS, the benefits of medical science to care, relieve, and extend life, can be
14 understood as signs of the Creator's providential care, and the Redeemers
15 restorative activity, and

16
17 WHEREAS, the last stages of life can become a time of enduring the limitations and
18 frailty of human life, and

19
20 WHEREAS, many would seek to forego these stages of life by taking the matters of life
21 and death into their own hands through suicide, and

22
23 WHEREAS, the states of Oregon and Washington have granted permission for
24 Physician Assisted Suicide, and

25
26 WHEREAS, this elevates death by ones own hand as the response to fear of not being
27 in control of one's own life, and

28
29 WHEREAS, this distorts the healing relationship between physician and individual, the
30 trust relationship among family members and ultimately the faith
31 relationship between God and people, and

32
33 WHEREAS, a subsequent result can be the demeaning of life and death decisions to a
34 level of financial expediency, i.e. so as not to be a financial burden,
35 Therefore be it

36
37 RESOLVED, that the 62nd Convention of the Northwest District of the Lutheran Church
38 Missouri Synod go on public record against Physician Assisted Suicide, and be it

39
40 RESOLVED, that we encourage the people of our congregations to become more
41 knowledgeable about end of life issues: the burdens of those living in the last
42 stages of life; the ability of medical science to provide palliative care, the
43 helpfulness of a caring community and the importance of spiritual care, and be it
44 finally

45
46 RESOLVED, that we encourage the leaders of congregations to provide opportunities for
47 individuals to think about end of life issues prior to the time when these issues
48 arise and give avenues for people to participate actively in a caring ministry to
49 and with those in the last stages of life.

50
51 Submitted by: Northwest District Board of Directors, Rev. Clemens Pera, Chairman, Rev. Paul Linnemann, Secretary

1 **OVERTURE: 2-03**

2
3 **TO WORK WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS TO REACH THE LOST AND**
4 **MEMORIALIZE SYNOD TO DO THE SAME**

5
6 WHEREAS, the Lord has given a command to all His followers to “make disciples of
7 all nations,” (Matthew 28:18-20) and

8
9 WHEREAS, we members of the Northwest District are part of the followers of Christ
10 who make up the “One, Holy, Christian (catholic), and Apostolic Church,”
11 and

12
13 WHEREAS, the task of reaching the lost is greater than we can do alone, therefore be it

14
15 RESOLVED, that we give thanks and praise to God for all our brothers and sisters in
16 Christ in the whole Christian Church on earth, and be it further

17
18 RESOLVED, that congregations of the Northwest District work with other Christian
19 congregations in their community to reach the lost, and be it finally

20
21 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District memorialize congregations, boards and
22 agencies of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, to work with
23 congregations, boards and agencies of various Christian bodies to reach
24 the lost.

25
26
27 Submitted by:
28 Northwest District Board of Directors
29 Rev. Clemens Pera, Chairman
30 Rev. Paul Linnemann, Secretary

1 **OVERTURE: 2-04**

2
3 **TO CONTINUE “TRACKING THE SPIRIT” AS AN EFFECTIVE**
4 **MOVEMENT OF OUTREACH FOR THE 21ST CENTURY**

5
6 WHEREAS, Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 4:18-22, Matthew 28:16-20, and Luke 19:10 provide the church
7 with a Biblical basis for outreach to lost people; and

8
9 WHEREAS, Acts 16:15, Acts 2:46, Acts 20:20, Philemon 2, Romans 16:5, and
10 1 Timothy 5:13 provide an effective model for outreach to the lost by planting churches;
11 and

12
13 WHEREAS, Synod through ABLAZE, has concentrated on critical events of reaching 100 million lost or
14 mis-directed people with the Gospel message by 2017; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the Northwest District Board of Directors and leaders have encouraged the continued
17 development of Tracking the Spirit as a movement of pastors, lay leaders, congregations,
18 and individuals; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the Tracking the Spirit movement supports the ABLAZE goal, the Council of Presidents
21 definition of church, and the Biblical definition that where two or three are gathered; and

22
23 WHEREAS, valid research has shown that culture has modified, society has transformed, and
24 congregations can no longer expect that worship services will automatically attract people
25 who have no connection to Church; and

26
27 WHEREAS, people are not asking, “Is Christianity true?” they are asking, “What works for me?” which
28 means to understand God they need to experience Him through personal transformation; and

29
30 WHEREAS, the culture of the area included in the Northwest District has been identified as the ‘most
31 unchurched and previously churched’ area of our country; and

32
33 WHEREAS, professional church workers, lay leaders, congregations, schools and individuals throughout
34 the district have recognized that the primary emphasis of the church is conversion growth and
35 identified with these principles through Tracking the Spirit in their daily lives; therefore, be it

36
37 RESOLVED, the Northwest District-LCMS will continue to support Tracking the Spirit which encourages
38 the following missional and incarnational models of Gospel outreach:
39 1. Renewed or continued focus on prayer for the lost; and
40 2. Going to the people, not expecting them to come to the churches; and
41 3. Transforming lives, not isolating new Christians from their existing network of
42 relationships; and
43 4. Emerging within the culture around them rather than ignoring it, adapting to the steady
44 wind of the Holy Spirit as He leads to Gospel opportunities; and
45 5. Forming churches of many small groups where members are engaged in the activities
46 based on the mission of the communities while always remaining in the harvest; and
47 6. Intentionally planting the seeds of the Gospel in their daily relationships with whomever
48 they meet with the confidence that God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, will grow,
49 prosper and multiply these seeds into thriving, Gospel outreach churches and
50 congregations.

51
52
53 Submitted by: Northwest District Board of Directors
54 Rev. Clemens Pera, Chairman
55 Rev. Paul Linnemann, Secretary

1 **OVERTURE: 2-05**

2
3 **TO MINISTER TO YOUTH IN A POST-CHURCH, POSTMODERN CULTURE**

4
5 WHEREAS, youth in the early 21st Century live in a post-church, Postmodern world quite
6 different from the modern world in which most church members were raised,
7 and which most church members do not understand, and

8
9 WHEREAS, Postmodernism contains current manifestations of lies fostered by the Evil One
10 exalting the individual as the measure of all things and maintaining all truth is only
11 subjective and relative, and

12
13 WHEREAS, two key elements of ministry among post-church, Postmodern youth are
14 relationships and stories, and

15
16 WHEREAS, post-church, Postmodern youth live and breathe technology which many of
17 moderns find discomforting, therefore, be it

18
19 RESOLVED, that moderns seeking to do ministry among post-church, Postmodern youth make
20 friends with technology enough to be aware of current gadgets so they can at least
21 listen in an interested and inviting way as youth talk about their latest devices, and,
22 further, be it

23
24 RESOLVED, that those in the church utilize the Internet and published books to research the
25 multiple available resources for ministry to youth in a post-church, Postmodern
26 world, and further, be it

27
28 RESOLVED, that church people keep in mind the lies of the Evil One, even in their present
29 versions, are not combated with sociology and with ministry technique, but with
30 the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus' blood shed for all, and further, be it

31
32 RESOLVED, that church people work at developing listening, caring relationships with youth
33 inside and outside the church, and further, be it

34
35 RESOLVED, that church people recognize the importance of listening as youth and others tell
36 their story, and recognize the importance of telling God's truth in story form to a
37 culture that gathers information from narrative more than from propositional
38 statements so common in our usual way of communicating in the church, and
39 finally be it

40
41 RESOLVED, that church people who have always been devoted to a print culture embrace the
42 personal distribution of God's Word in digital audio forms that youth can hear,
43 copy, and share freely with one another for playing on their personal digital devices

44
45 (e.g. the World English audio Bible in MP3 available free through Vicki Knutsen at the NOW District Office)

46
47
48 Submitted by: Northwest District Board of Directors
49 Rev. Clemens Pera, Chairman
50 Rev. Paul Linnemann, Secretary

51

1 **OVERTURE: 2-06**

2
3 **TO UTILIZE GRADUATES OF LAP**

4
5
6 WHEREAS, God has gifted His church with many gifts “for the common good and He
7 intends that we use these gifts to faithfully serve Him and spread the
8 Gospel (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Matthew 25:14-30), and
9

10 WHEREAS, the Northwest District has over 47 congregations with an average of 50
11 members or less attending church; and
12

13 WHEREAS, utilization of trained Lay Ministers is an effective way
14 to do ministry in small and isolated areas, and
15

16 WHEREAS, trained Lay Ministers are used extensively throughout the District in a
17 variety of congregations, agencies, and ministries; therefore, be it
18

19 RESOLVED, that Northwest District congregations, agencies, organizations and
20 ministries recruit and enable faithful laity to enter the Northwest District
21 lay ministry training program, known as the Leadership Advancement
22 Process – LAP; and be it finally
23

24 RESOLVED, that the graduates be utilized by the Northwest District congregations,
25 agencies, organizations and ministries.
26
27

28 Submitted by: Northwest District Board of Directors
29 Rev. Clemens Pera, Chairman
30 Rev. Paul Linnemann, Secretary
31
32
33

1 **OVERTURE: 2-07**

2
3 **TO ENCOURAGE INTENTIONAL OUTREACH TO THE OLDER GENERATION**

4
5 WHEREAS, the Lord has given us the mandate to “make disciples of all nations,” and

6
7 WHEREAS, no one is excluded from “all nations,” regardless of age, gender, ethnicity,
8 orientation, circumstance, condition, or anything else that might be used to
9 define or divide people, and

10
11 WHEREAS, older men and women are often more conscious of, and ready to talk
12 about, the end of life and life after death, and

13
14 WHEREAS, one’s peer group is an especially open opportunity, for all ages, to share
15 the Good News of God’s love and salvation in Jesus Christ, and

16
17 WHEREAS, statistics tell us that our United States is increasing in an older population,
18 and

19
20 WHEREAS, many, if not most, of our congregations have a significant number of older
21 adults, therefore be it

22
23 RESOLVED, that our congregations give special emphasis, without neglecting other
24 opportunities for sharing the Gospel, to reach out to the older men and
25 women in their community, and be it further

26
27 RESOLVED, that our pastors, other professional church workers, and trained lay
28 leaders, give prayerful and diligent attention and follow through to equip
29 the older saints in our congregations to be aware of, and prepared to take
30 opportunities to reach out to their peers with God’s love and the Good
31 News of the saving Gospel of our Lord, and be it finally

32
33 RESOLVED, that our congregations make it an intentional part of their ministry to be
34 open, look for, create, and take opportunities to serve the older population
35 in their community in the name of Christ.

36
37 Submitted by: Northwest District Board of Directors
38 Rev. Clemens Pera, Chairman
39 Rev. Paul Linnemann, Secretary

40
41
42

1 **OVERTURE: 2-08**

2 **TO THANK THE LORD OF THE CHURCH FOR BLESSING PRESIDENT SCHUMACHER**
3 **WITH GIFTS OF LEADERSHIP AND TO RECOGNIZE HIS USE OF THOSE GIFTS IN**
4 **DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT AND TO THE CHURCH**

5
6 WHEREAS, the Lord of the Church blesses His church with people to serve Him and
7 extend the mission of the church, (Ephesians 4) and

8
9 WHEREAS, the Lord of the Church has, through His people gathered in convention
10 June 24-26, 1994 as an election body, called Dr. Warren W. Schumacher
11 to the Presidency of the Northwest
12 District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, which he has served with
13 distinguished dedication for 15 years and

14
15 WHEREAS, we thank the Lord for giving President Schumacher a patient, pastoral and
16 evangelical heart, blessing him with strength and health and keeping him
17 safe during thousands of miles of travel, and

18
19 WHEREAS, President Schumacher has lovingly and faithfully empowered the talented
20 Executive Staff and Support Staff serving in the District Office, and

21
22 WHEREAS, he has used wisdom to deal evangelically, forthrightly and effectively with
23 individuals and congregations in conflict, and

24
25 WHEREAS, he has led the District and the Church with vision in the Lord's Mission in
26 relation to the Church Universal and is highly regard by leaders of both
27 the LCMS and other church bodies, and

28
29 WHEREAS, the Northwest District Board of Directors, as the elected governing body of
30 the District between conventions, has annually evaluated President
31 Warren Schumacher on the basis of its Ends and Executive Limitations
32 Policies and

33
34 WHEREAS, the Board has determined that in speaking the word of God to District and
35 congregational members he has served the Northwest District with
36 faithful, effective service, leading it to be in the mission of Jesus Christ to
37 'seek and save the lost' (Luke 19:10), using the Board's Ends Policies
38 which were developed as a response to Jesus' mission mandate.

39
40 1.0 The mission of the Northwest District is that more people are disciples of Jesus, in
41 communion with God and with one another, in the Northwest District than the previous
42 year,. Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 1:9-10

43 1.0.1 that "Lay leaders and professional church workers are well equipped,
44 supported and encouraged and impelled in their congregation's ministry of
45 reaching lost souls

46 1.0.2 "LCMS congregations as part of the whole Christian church on earth work
47 with congregations of various Christian bodies to reach the lost."

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1.0.3 School teachers and administrators are well equipped, supported,
encouraged and impelled to prepare students to be strong leaders in their
churches and communities

1.0.4 Defenseless, weak and hurting people individually and corporately are cared
for and defended as an integral part of our Gospel proclamation,” and

WHEREAS, Christians are enjoined to “remember your leaders who spoke the word of
God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their
faith.” (Hebrews 13:7), therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Northwest District assembled in convention in Portland, Oregon
on June 18-20, 2009 thank God for the gifts of vision and administration
He has given Dr. Warren W. Schumacher which has made him a blessing
to the District and to the Church, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we recognize that he has used those gifts in fulfilling the mission of
the Presidency of the Northwest District and to the glory of God, and be it
finally

RESOLVED, that in praise to God and in recognition of Dr. Schumacher’s dedicated
service the convention rise and sing the common doxology.

Submitted by: Northwest District Board of Directors
Rev. Clemens Pera, Chairman
Rev. Paul Linnemann, Secretary

1 **OVERTURE: 2-09**

2 **TO MEMORIALIZE THE SYNOD TO INCLUDE DISABILITIES AWARENESS**
3 **MINISTRY TRAINING IN THE CURRICULA OF SYNOD'S SEMINARIES AND**
4 **UNIVERSITIES**

5
6 WHEREAS, an estimated *thirty to forty* million Americans experience disabilities of one
7 degree or another; and

8
9 *WHEREAS, the ministry of Christ reveals a special care for people with disabilities, and*
10 *the Christian church throughout the centuries has strived for hospitality to*
11 *all people in the spirit of Christ;*

12
13 WHEREAS, an aging population brings to the local congregation a significant challenge
14 of increasing disabilities; and

15
16 WHEREAS, that number is steadily increasing as American troops serving in foreign
17 wars return with physical, emotional, and mental disabilities; and

18
19 WHEREAS, there is a need to equip professional church workers to minister effectively
20 and confidently with people with disabilities; and

21
22 WHEREAS, ministry with people with disabilities *does not appear to be articulated in*
23 *the core curriculum requirement of our seminaries and universities; and*

24
25 WHEREAS, the rich gifts of people with disabilities are thereby not being used in the
26 body of Christ; therefore be it

27
28 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District in convention assembled memorialize the 2010
29 convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to encourage our
30 seminaries and universities to incorporate in their core curricula of training
31 pastors and other professional church workers an emphasis on ministry to
32 and with people who have disabilities; and be it further

33
34 RESOLVED, that the Synod's Board for Pastoral Education together with Synod's Board
35 for University Education take the responsibility of assisting our seminaries
36 and universities in articulating objectives to be included in the core
37 curriculum within the next triennium; and be it finally

38
39 RESOLVED, that the Synod's Board for Pastoral Education together with Synod's
40 Board for University Education take the responsibility of assisting our
41 seminaries and universities in articulating objectives to be included in the
42 core curriculum within the next triennium.

43
44 Phil Mann, Chairperson, LCMS NOW District Disability Awareness Task Force

45

1 **OVERTURE: 2-10**

2
3
4 **TO ENCOURAGE OPERATION BARNABAS TRAINING SEMINARS**

5
6
7 WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod remains supportive of the men and
8 women serving in United States Armed Forces, and

9
10 WHEREAS, The Northwest District has been at the forefront of modeling compassionate
11 ministry to them and their families, and

12
13 WHEREAS, The Synod’s Operation Barnabas program provides outstanding resources
14 for enhancing the Ministry to Military Personnel within every one of our
15 congregations; therefore let it be

16
17 RESOLVED, that the Northwest District of the LCMS, in convention, reiterate its
18 commitment to caring for military personnel and their families; and be it
19 finally

20
21 RESOLVED, That we strongly encourage all of our congregations to participate in
22 upcoming Operation Barnabas training seminars.

23
24
25
26
27
28 Submitted by
29 Ministry to Military Personnel, Families and Congregations
30 Northwest District – LCMS
31 Rev. Bruce Rumsch, Chairman