

Resolutions

Floor Committee # 1-Theology and Administration

To Support Operation Barnabas

Resolution #1.01

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1.05 (*Proposed Resolutions—page 3*)

Overture #1.07 from Workbook (*Overtures—page 5*)

- WHEREAS, United States Armed Forces continue to serve around the world, and many of these service members are on their second and third deployment; and
- WHEREAS, The stress of deployment in a war zone is tremendous, not only on the service member but also their families; and
- WHEREAS, Many of these service members and their families are members of LCMS congregations or neighbors in our community that have been impacted by military operations; and
- WHEREAS, Since 9/11, the nation has called upon our military reservists in numbers unknown since World War II. And our reservists and their families have responded, serving their nation with honor and determination; often times, feeling very alone; and
- WHEREAS, Operation Barnabas has provided care to reserve chaplains and their families; and
- WHEREAS, The churches of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) would like to help, and congregations in many states have joined Operation Barnabas, delivering care to military families; and
- WHEREAS, The military is downsizing, with over 200,000 military families leaving the military each year for the next five years; and
- WHEREAS, Our congregations are uniquely positioned to lead their communities in receiving these war weary families, with each unique congregation having unique resources, talent, and personnel offering various types of services; and
- WHEREAS, The Nebraska District has 6,076 active duty families, 6,987 reserve families, and 145,399 veteran families, totaling 158,462 families that need our support; and
- WHEREAS, The Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has already commenced an active Operation Barnabas Ministry to the Armed Forces, and congregations within the District have already established or are in the process of establishing Operation Barnabas chapters; and
- WHEREAS, The coordination and cooperation of resources can assure the effective delivery of services to the military community that we seek to serve through an Operation Barnabas Ministry to the Armed Forces; therefore be it
- Resolved, That the District President set up a task force to recommend to the Board of Directors how we might organize as a district and develop and resource circuit and local chapters to equip, resource, and encourage congregations in serving and caring for those who have and are serving in our military and their families; and be it further
- Resolved, That this task force report its plan and resource needs to the District Board of Directors in a timely manner and to the 2018 District Convention; and be it finally
- Resolved, That we, the members of the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, support the efforts of this ministry by our time, talents, treasures and prayer.

Action: Adopted

* The Proposed Resolution workbook section referred to is the June 12 - Version B section presented to delegates at convention.

To Honor Former District President Rev. Eugene Gierke

Resolution #1.02

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1.08 (*Proposed Resolutions—page 5*)

Late Overture #L1.09 (*Late Overtures—page 1*)

WHEREAS, The Reverend Eugene V. Gierke served as President of our Nebraska District from 1991 to 2003; and

WHEREAS, God blessed our Nebraska District and the LCMS through his faithful service; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Gierke will be retiring from employment by the church after this convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That the title of “President Emeritus” be conferred on The Rev. Eugene V. Gierke in honor of his many years of faithful service; and be it finally

Resolved, That we pray God’s richest blessings on Rev. Gierke as the Lord guides him into new endeavors of service in the Kingdom.

Action: Adopted

To Honor District President Rev. Russell Sommerfeld

Resolution #1.03

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1.09 (*Proposed Resolutions—page 5*)

Late Overture #L1.10 (*Late Overtures—page 1*)

WHEREAS, The Reverend Russell Sommerfeld has served as President of our Nebraska District since 2003; and

WHEREAS, God blessed our Nebraska District and the LCMS through his faithful service; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sommerfeld’s service as president is concluding at this convention; therefore be it

Resolved, That the title of “President Emeritus” be conferred on The Rev. Russell Sommerfeld in honor of his years of faithful service; and be it finally

Resolved, That we pray God’s richest blessings on President Sommerfeld as the Lord guides him into new endeavors of service in the Kingdom.

Action: Adopted

To Recognize Retiring District Office Staff

Resolution #1.04

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1.10 (*Proposed Resolutions—page 5*)

Late Overture #L1.11 (*Late Overtures—page 1*)

WHEREAS, Mr. Don Weber has faithfully and capably served the Lord for numerous years, with the past eleven years of service to the Nebraska District as Administrative Assistant to the President for Education and Youth; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Marvin Bergman has faithfully and capably served the Lord for numerous years, with the past twelve years of service to the Nebraska District as Lay Leadership Training Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, God has blessed our Nebraska District and our beloved Synod through their years of faithful service; and

WHEREAS, Don Weber will be retiring at the end of this year from the Nebraska District LCMS; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Marvin Bergman will be retiring this summer from the Nebraska District LCMS; therefore be it

Resolved, That we join in thanks and praise to God for Don Weber and Rev. Dr. Marvin Bergman and their years of faithful service; and be it further

Resolved, That the convention recognize and honor Mr. Weber and Rev. Dr. Bergman for their outstanding work for the District; and be it finally

Resolved, That we pray God’s riches and blessings on Don Weber and Rev. Dr. Marvin Bergman and their families, as they continue their walk of faith in their service to the Lord in their retirement.

Action: Adopted

To Strengthen the Nebraska District Board of Directors

Resolution #1.05

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1.01 (*Proposed Resolutions—page 1*)

Overture #1.01 from Workbook (*Overtures—page 1*)

WHEREAS, The 2009 Bylaws of the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) vest the Board of Directors of the Nebraska District of the LCMS with the general management and supervision of the District’s business and legal affairs, the coordination of the policies and directives of the District as authorized by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and District Convention resolutions, thus an important role in the government of the District; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Nebraska District Board of Directors find that new challenges and opportunities are facing them as they seek to sustain their service to the Synod and the Nebraska District in an increasingly challenging and exciting time of theological and missional opportunities; and

WHEREAS, A district board of directors is blessed when it includes members with a specific set of skills, including knowledge in the areas of theology, mission, finance, law, investments, human resources, facilities, communication, fund development, and the administration of complex organizations; and

WHEREAS, The Nebraska District Board of Directors manages a significant operational budget and provides significant support to the operations and mission of the LCMS; and

WHEREAS, Effective governance of the Nebraska District can benefit from competent leadership in all skill sets; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has approved in its 2013 Convention giving districts authority, if they so choose, to appoint additional directors to complement the skills of directors elected by district conventions; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Bylaw 3.3.4.1, item 5, authorizes the elected members of the Synod Board of Directors to appoint up to three (3) at-large laypersons to obtain needed additional skill sets (legal, finance, investment, administration, etc.); and

WHEREAS, Currently, all elected members of the Nebraska District Board of Directors must hold membership in the LCMS or an LCMS congregation, and such membership will continue to be required for all appointed district board members; therefore be it

Resolved, That Nebraska District Bylaw IV.A.1 be amended to read as follows:

c. The District Board of Directors shall also have the authority to choose to appoint up to three (3) non-voting advisory lay members, from the district’s congregations, to the board to obtain additional skill sets (legal, finance, investment, administration, etc.). No board members, appointed or elected, shall be members of the same congregation; and be it finally

Resolved, That Nebraska District Bylaw IV.A.2 be amended to read as follows:

c. Appointed members of the District Board of Directors shall serve one three-year term and be eligible for reappointment for an additional three-year term. Appointees are not eligible to serve in board leadership positions. If appointed members subsequently are elected to the Board of Directors, their appointments shall automatically cease.

Action: Adopted as amended

(By amendment, the word “voting” was changed to “non-voting advisory” in the first Resolved.)

To Amend Synod Bylaw 3.2.4.1

Resolution #1.06

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1.02 (*Proposed Resolutions—page 2*)

Overture #1.02 from Workbook (*Overtures—page 2*)

- WHEREAS, The Synod has been served by multiple gifts and abilities of those who serve Synod; and
- WHEREAS, Term limits provide opportunity for fresh perspectives, use of different gifts and abilities; and
- WHEREAS, There is not uniformity of practice in regard to term limits in the various elected offices in the Districts of Synod and those offices of Synod elected or appointed when Synod is in convention; therefore let it be
- Resolved, That the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in convention, memorialize The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in convention, to limit the officers of President, First Vice-President, regional vice-presidents, and Secretary elected by the Synod, in convention, to terms not to exceed 12 years; and be it further
- Resolved, That Bylaw 3.2.4.1 shall read: “The offices of President, First Vice-President, regional vice-presidents, and Secretary ~~shall be without limitation as to reelection~~ shall be ineligible for reelection to the same office after serving a total of four successive three-year elected terms.”; and be it further
- Resolved, That Bylaw 3.2.4.1 (a) shall read: “Such persons may become eligible again for election to the same office after an interval of three or more years.”; and be it further
- Resolved, That Bylaw 3.2.4.1 (b) shall read: “More than one-half of a term shall be regarded as a full term under limited tenure rules.”; and be it further
- Resolved, That Bylaw 3.2.4.1 (c) shall read: “Any officer who is ineligible for reelection may be elected or appointed to another position.”; and be if further
- Resolved, That current Bylaw 3.2.4.1 (a) shall be ascribed as “3.2.4.1 (d)”;
- Resolved, That current Bylaw 3.2.4.1 (b) shall be ascribed as “3.2.4.1 (e)”;
- Resolved, That current Bylaw 3.2.4.1 (c) shall be ascribed as “3.2.4.1 (f).”

Action: Adopted

To Submit Mission and Ministry Emphases to the Synodical Convention

Resolution #1.07

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1.03 (*Proposed Resolutions—page 3*)

Overtures #1.04 and #1.05 from Workbook (*Overtures—page 3-4*)

- WHEREAS, The LCMS has invited congregations to submit ideas for mission and ministry to be emphasized in the next triennium; and
- WHEREAS, The encouragement has been given that this should be a “grass roots” effort –from congregations to the circuit to the district and then to the Synod; and
- WHEREAS, Congregations in Nebraska have seen the importance of building relationships and serving the people in their communities so the Gospel of Jesus Christ can be shared ; and
- WHEREAS, The congregations of the Falls City Circuit at their circuit convocation have approved this suggestion for a mission and ministry emphasis; therefore be it
- Resolved, That according to Synod Bylaw 4.2.1(d), the Nebraska District in Convention submit to the 2016 Synodical Convention a mission and ministry emphasis of engaging communities by building relationships through serving the needs of people so the Gospel of Jesus Christ can be shared; and be it finally
- Resolved, That Nebraska District congregations engaging in this mission be encouraged to share their ministry ideas with other congregations in their circuit and the Nebraska District.

Action: Adopted as amended

(By amendment, the words “of Jesus Christ” were added after the word “Gospel” in the third Whereas and the first Resolved.)

To Encourage Additional Education Training for Pastors

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1.04 (*Proposed Resolutions—page 3*)

Overture #1.06 from Workbook (*Overtures—page 4*)

Introduction

The purpose of this resolution is to encourage seminaries and universities to include additional required courses on teaching (in the education world, these are called methods courses) to provide pastoral candidates (M.Div, Alternate Route, SMP) with tools to help them be more effective teachers. It would be understood that if the candidate, prior to entering the seminary, has already taken equivalent courses these courses could be substituted. It is also good, right, and proper for congregations and Synod to encourage and support those pastors already out of seminary to supplement their teaching skills.

WHEREAS, Pastoral candidates do not have sufficient courses on teaching that would provide them with tools to help them be more effective teachers; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures tell us that one of the requirements of an overseer is to be “able to teach” (1 Tim. 3:2); and

WHEREAS, It is expected of our pastors to be the primary teacher of the young and adult catechism classes and of additional Bible study classes; and

WHEREAS, “*Doctor Luther said: ... schoolteachers are used to speaking in school and somewhat more daring [than pastors]. They also teach in their school language how one must treat and interpret the language of the Holy Scriptures. I wish that no one would be chosen as a preacher unless he had first taught school*” (Lewis W. Spitz in *Bulletin 2, March 1943, Lutheran Education Association*); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Office of the President, Chief Mission Officer, and board of regents of the seminaries and of the universities with pre-seminary programs be encouraged to require additional teacher training classes which include skills in class management, tools for lesson preparation, and an introduction to the philosophy of education; and

Resolved, That pastors and congregations, utilizing District staff, find ways to improve the pastor’s teaching skills through additional post-seminary classes and seminars.

Action: Defeated

Due to the orders of the day, no action occurred on these proposed resolutions:

Proposed Resolution #1.06—To decline Overture #1.03

Proposed Resolution #1.07—To decline Overture #1.08