



One Lord, One Faith, One Body

Today's Business L

Thirteenth Regular Convention

Winnipeg, Manitoba
June 12-15, 2026

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Bishop Torkild Masvie
The Lutheran Church in Norway and Iceland
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Oslo, April 23, 2026

To President Rev. Timothy Teusher and all delegates
at the Thirteenth Regular Convention of
Lutheran Church-Canada

It is with great joy that I greet all of you.
May God give you wisdom as you do decide on what the next steps are to be for your church.

Your church has been and is a very strategic and pleasant partner in overseas missions for our
small church.

We are partnering in the work of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Israel
where the Russian Ingrian Church is taking the lead and where your church has
taken responsibility for following up the Amharic groups of 100-150 000
Ethiopian immigrants.

We are also together taking small steps towards church planting that can benefit
Greenland as well as the people with the same language in North-East Canada.
We are still looking for a pastor to move to Nuuk.

Hopefully we also can partner in the Confessional
Lutheran Indigenous Congregations network.

As I am being replaced by another bishop when I
reach retirement age in October, I will, God willing,
be available to your church on an overseas
mission. I look forward to continuing working with
you.

In Christ

Torkild Masvie



Meeting January 21, 2026, 15:00 PM CET - it implies
05:00 AM Alaska and 01:00 AM January 22 East Australia

International zoom-meetings once or twice a year with the purpose of
**informing, connecting and strengthening
the confessional Lutheran congregations**

CLIC - network is for indigenous Confessional Lutheran congregations that are part
of Lutheran churches who are members of the International Lutheran Council (ILC),
or who are indigenous Lutheran congregations invited as observing guests by churches
that are members of CLIC.

The CLIC - network conference is by invitation only.

If an I.L.Church has indigenous congregations or wants to be an observer with the intention of helping establish
congregations which speak an indigenous language etc., please email post@lkn.no, or an invitation. Ministers that can
provide resources to the work with such indigenous congregations are welcome to ask for an invitation.

The indigenous Lutheran congregations invited as guests to the zoom conference cannot have women pastors
or support same sex marriage.

The CLIC - network is established and hosted by The Lutheran Church in Norway and Iceland.

- Honorary CLIC president
Pastor Rev. Lambert Fernandez
(OF the Quechua people)
President of Lutheran Church
of Bolivia (LCB)
- Host of CLIC conference
Bishop Torkild Masvie
The Lutheran Church in Norway
and Iceland (LCN)
- Host from the Tent congregation
in Svalbard (LCN)
Rev. Gunnar Jensen
- Confessional
Lutheran
Indigenous
Congregations




**THE LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN
NORWAY,
ICELAND AND
GREENLAND**

Est 1536 & 2006



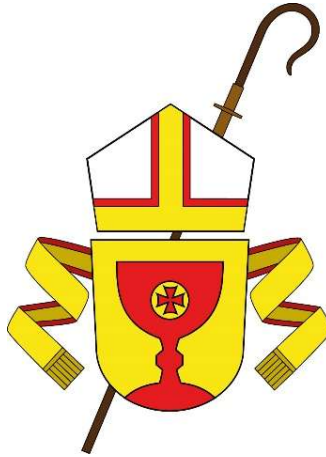
www.LKN.no



We are looking for a Danish/Norwegian
speaking pastor and church planter,
and others who can join the team and
find a local job and settle in Nuuk,
learning Greenlandic, and helping to restart
the local Confessional Lutheran church.
We cooperate with locals in Nuuk.

We continue the legacy of what in 1536
was one Danish/Norwegian West-Nordic
reformation church where today's state
churches have abandoned biblical, Lutheran
teachings: Norway, Iceland, Greenland,
the Faroe Islands, Denmark.
Can you help? Contact us at
post@lkn.no





A letter of Greeting to the convention of Lutheran Church Canada

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

What a gift it is to be united through the same waters of Holy Baptism and a common confession of faith in Christ Jesus.

What a gift it is to understand that neither oceans nor miles between us, neither national borders nor cultural differences, not even tribulation or death, can separate us, as we are one Body in Christ Jesus.

What a gift it is that as you gather there at the Holy Altar to receive the heavenly gifts of Christ's body and blood, we share the same table.

What a gift it is to know that you share in our joys and pains, and that we rejoice and mourn with you, and that together we share the same mission—to bring Christ Jesus, the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation to people both near and far.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ in Finland—and also those sisters and brothers who love winter, snow, and hockey—I greet you all and pray that you may have a blessed convention, guided by the Holy Spirit.

We have received many blessings through your church and seminaries, and we look forward to continuing to believe, teach, and confess the one Lord and one faith with you as one Body.

May the Triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and guide you in your convention!

Helsinki 1.5.2026

+Juhana Pohjola

Bishop

The Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND

30 Huntingdon Road
Cambridge
CB3 0HH



CHAIRMAN

Dear President Teuscher, esteemed convention delegates,

I thank you for your kind invitation to attend this year's Convention of Lutheran Church—Canada. I am very sorry that I am not able to be with you in person, but I send you most cordial greetings on behalf of your brothers and sisters in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England.

Your chosen theme this year, *Together One*, is one that is close to my heart, not least because it is such an apt description of the relationship between our churches. Although we are separated by a wide ocean, and although most of our respective members do not get the opportunity to meet one another in person, Lutheran Church—Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England have long enjoyed a warm friendship. This friendship is not primarily a product of personal relations between representatives of our churches – although we have been richly blessed in that regard, too – but it is grounded in the unity gifted by the Triune God through the common confession of the gospel: children together of the Heavenly Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, in the bonds of love given by the Holy Spirit.

We rejoice in your bold confession of the one faith, the saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom God is reconciling the world to Himself. In a fallen world persistently fragmented, and a church sadly divided, you uphold and proclaim the living hope granted to us by the God and Father of all, who has brought us into membership in the one body of Christ by Holy Baptism in the one faith.

As you gather, may God grant you unity in the Holy Spirit, and the gift of wisdom promised to all who ask, that all your discussions and deliberations redound to the glory of God, the building up of the body of Christ in the Lutheran Church—Canada, and the advance of the kingdom of heaven. We your brothers and sisters in the United Kingdom and Ireland will hold your gathering in our prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Tapani Simojoki
Chairman
Evangelical Lutheran Church of England

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MINUTES – Session 5

Call to Order

President Teuscher called the second session to order at 8:16 am (CDT)

Office of Matins – Rev. Kurt Lantz and Rev. Robert Mohns

Bible Study – Rev. Dr. James Kellerman

Rev. Dr. Kellerman led us in a study of Ephesians 2, reflecting on the convention theme.

Registration Committee Report – Rev. Tom Kruesel, Chairman

Voting Pastor Delegates – 147

Voting Lay Delegates – 148

TOTAL VOTING – 291

Advisory Delegates – 12

Advisory Representatives – 20

Registered Visitors – 18

Invited Guests – 11

TOTAL– 61

Exhibitors – 11

Staff/ Contractors – 28

Spouses – 38

TOTAL - 77

Quorum remains and the Convention continued.

Approval of Minutes

Using pages K.5 through K.34 in the latest edition of “*Today’s Business*”—the minutes of the previous session were presented

Motion C26-21: That the minutes of the 13th Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church-Canada, June 13, 2026, Session 2, 3 and 4 be adopted as amended (page K.8: The results of voting need to be switched Rev. Jan Pastucha – 57 (48.7%), Rev. Michael Schutz – 60 (51.6%) Page K.10: Inserted a line regarding the election for Circuit Counsellor for the Hanover Circuit “President Teuscher declared Rev. Kenneth Maher elected.” Page K.11: For the Circuit Counsellor for the Peace River Circuit the line “President Teuscher declared Rev. Vishal Paul elected.” was changed to “President Teuscher declared Rev. Terrance Goerz elected.” Page K30: The voting results were corrected as follows: David Patrick - 107 (45.5%), Shaun Visser 128 (54.5%). Page K.7 The results of the election for Rev. Joel Kuhl were corrected as follows: 129 (46.1%). An editorial error in the numbering of motions was corrected.

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ACTION: Adopted

Greetings from Concordia University Chicago (CUC) – Dr. Chad Kendall

Resolutions Committee #1 (Handbook and Structure) – Rev. Aaron Astley, Chairman

**RESOLUTION 26.1.02a TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE
STATUTORY BYLAWS OF LUTHERAN CHURCH – CANADA**

(Reference Overture 1.02, 1.08, and 1.09)

WHEREAS the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure (CCMS) of LCC has as one of its mandates to “Conduct a continuing review of the structure of LCC...” (Cf. Synodical Bylaw 2.063a.1); and

WHEREAS this review has been completed; and

WHEREAS it would take too much Convention time to approve each update one at a time; and

WHEREAS sufficient time on the Convention floor to discuss and approve additional changes to the proposed LCC 2026 Handbook will be allotted at this Convention; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that LCC in Convention approve the following changes to the Statutory Bylaws as a whole:

Statutory Bylaws

8.19 Each region shall send one advisory delegate for every 30 advisory pastors (or fraction thereof) and one advisory delegate for every 30 deacons (or fraction thereof) on the roster of the Synod assigned to the region. Any rostered pastor is advisory if he is not a voting delegate. Each region shall be entitled to at least one advisory delegate in each category. Additionally, one deacon at large shall be elected so that a minimum of four deacons (at least one from each region by numerical representation and one deacon at large) shall act as advisory delegates at convention. Whether the election occurs in person or remotely, nominations should be sought from the region’s advisory pastors (in relation to the pastoral advisory delegate) and the region’s deacons (in relation to the diaconal delegate) prior to voting. The election of the deacon at large shall be made by a paper or electronic ballot arranged by the ~~Regional Pastor~~ *secretary*, with nominations from the deacons of LCC preceding the election and with each deacon on the roster eligible to participate. The elections of the regional diaconal delegates and the election of the deacon at large shall not run

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concurrently so as to allow unelected nominees from one election to be nominated for the other. Such elections must be completed at least 90 days prior to the opening day of the Convention. ~~The Regional Pastor will inform the Secretary of the Synod of the results.~~

- 11.21 The Board may fill any vacancy on the Board, or in the office of the vice-president, *or regional pastor*, by appointment of a qualified individual to hold such office for the balance of the unexpired term.
- 11.23 The Board shall appoint the chief administrative officer who shall be an employee of LCC. The chief administrative officer shall discharge the non-ecclesiastical responsibilities assigned to the chief administrative officer by the Board. The chief administrative officer shall be responsible for preparing annual budgets to be presented to the Board as well as preparing a four-year forecast to be presented to each quadrennial Convention. The chief administrative officer shall encourage offerings for the work of LCC on regional, national and international levels; keep an exact record of all moneys received and expended by LCC; administer LCC's financial affairs; and at any time submit to an examination of the chief administrative officer's books and accounts by an auditing committee when so ordered by the Board or a Convention.

and be it finally

RESOLVED that these changes be incorporated into the 2026 Handbook of LCC.

Motion C26.22: To adopt Resolution 26.1.02a
Action: Adopted

RESOLUTION 26.1.11 TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE SYNODICAL BYLAWS

(Reference Overture 1.02)

WHEREAS the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure (CCMS) of LCC has as one of its mandates to "Conduct a continuing review of the structure of LCC..." (Cf. Synodical Bylaw 2.063a.1); and

WHEREAS this review has been completed; and

WHEREAS it would take too much Convention time to approve each update one at a time; and

WHEREAS sufficient time on the Convention floor to discuss and approve additional changes to the proposed LCC 2026 Handbook will be allotted at this Convention; therefore, be it

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RESOLVED that LCC in Convention approve the following changes to the Synodical Bylaws as a whole:

Synodical Bylaws

- 1.009 Every pastor and every deacon shall, in accordance with ~~his~~ *their* vocation, ~~his~~ *their* ability, and the means at ~~his~~ *their* command, diligently and earnestly promote the purposes of the Synod by word, deed, and adequate financial support.
- 1.011d A pastor or a deacon who is an Individual Member serving an educational institution which is a part of the Synodical Family shall be under the ecclesiastical supervision of the ~~president~~ *regional pastor*.
- 1.013b During the period that the suspension is in effect, the Member shall have "Suspended Status" as provided by bylaw 5.037 and shall be ineligible for service in Lutheran Church-Canada ~~or a congregation~~. All records of Lutheran Church-Canada shall reflect this fact.
- 1.019b The elected officers of Lutheran Church-Canada serve **LCC** in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to them by the Statutory Bylaws, Synodical Constitution and these Bylaws or by a Convention.
- c. The Board of Directors serves **LCC** in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to it by the Statutory Bylaws, Synodical Constitution and these Bylaws or by a Convention.
- d. Each commission ~~also~~ serves **LCC** in a specific area of program or ministry in accordance with the Synodical Constitution and these Bylaws.
- 2.003 Congregations shall not require their delegates to vote in accordance with specific instructions, but every delegate shall be permitted to vote according to his/her own conviction. Delegates are nevertheless responsible to their congregation, whom they represent, and shall attempt to discover the sentiment of the communicant members thereof. They shall be expected to be faithful in attendance at all sessions of the Convention. After each Convention they shall report the actions of the Convention to their congregation. *The delegate will serve until the next Convention.*
- 2.031 Individuals shall be elected with one appointment by the president ~~at Convention~~ to the following commissions:
- d. A Commission ~~for~~ *on* Nominations and Elections (CNE)
- 2.069c The president, ~~in consultation with the vice-president~~, shall appoint one additional member.
- 2.087b The president, ~~in consultation with the vice-president~~, shall appoint one additional member.

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- 2.093 The president, vice-president and the regional pastors shall form the President's Ministry Council. The Council shall meet at least bi-annually and in addition at the call of the president or at the request of ~~one-third~~ *two* of the members of the President's Ministry Council:
- 2.093d ~~—To give guidance regarding inter-church relations: (re-letter the subsequent bullet points)~~
- 2.099a The CNE shall nominate candidates for all individual and group positions except the president, ~~or~~ vice-president, *regional pastors, and circuit counsellors.*
- 2.099g.6 The CNE shall notify each candidate and shall secure his approval in writing for inclusion of his name on the convention ballot. Each candidate shall reply within ten (10) days as to his willingness to serve if elected.
- 2.099h.6 The CNE shall notify each candidate and shall secure his approval in writing for inclusion of his name on the convention ballot. Each candidate shall reply within ten (10) days as to his willingness to serve if elected.
- 2.101j Candidates shall be vetted by the ~~president in consultation with the Regional Pastors. Regional pastors being considered for re-election shall recuse themselves from the vetting process delegates in the nominating and election processes.~~
- 2.101k *Regional Mission and Ministry Councils*
Candidates shall be vetted by the delegates in the nominating and election processes.
- 2.101kl Candidates shall be vetted by the ~~regional pastor in consultation with the other pastors and deacons in the same circuit. Circuit counsellors being considered for re-election shall recuse themselves from the vetting process delegates in the nominating and election processes.~~
- 2.101lm The CNE shall confirm the previous vetting of anyone nominated from the floor for any elected position *except for the offices of president, vice-president, regional pastor, and circuit counsellor.* Nominations from the floor shall be accepted if the conditions for candidacy including vetting are fulfilled.
- 2.103e An elected officer can hold an appointed position in addition to their elected office but not another elected office. (Cf. Synodical Bylaw ~~2.75~~ *2.051*)
- 2.103f.3 Regional Pastors *to be elected only by voting delegates of that region.*
- 2.103f.4 Circuit Counsellors *to be elected only by voting delegates of that circuit.*
- 2.103f.10 Regional Mission and Ministry Councils *to be elected only by voting delegates of that region.*
- 3.005 The expectations of a regional pastor include:
a. Visit each Member located in his region *annually at least once every four years* in addition to specific invitations he may receive from Member Congregations and Individual Members in that region,
- 4.001 *At least two years before each Convention, Regional Pastors and Regional Mission and Ministry Councils shall review the composition of Circuits in their region and recommend re-drawing ~~Each~~ circuit boundaries such that each shall consist of not less than ~~three~~ *six* or more than twelve congregations ~~involving~~ *comprising* an*

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aggregate communicant membership of a maximum of ~~8,000~~ 10,000. ~~Exceptions to these requirements and limitations can be made only by the president upon request of a Regional Mission and Ministry Council.~~

~~4.005 Every Member congregation in each circuit shall nominate as candidates for the office of circuit counsellor two men from among the pastors of congregations of the circuit or from among the emeriti who hold membership in one of the member congregations of that circuit. The nominations shall be made at least three months prior to the elections and shall be submitted to the secretary. Candidates shall be vetted by the Regional Pastor in consultation with the other pastors and deacons in the same circuit. Circuit Counsellors being considered for re-election shall recuse themselves from the vetting process. The qualifications for this position include:~~

- ~~a. Membership in good standing on the roster,~~
- ~~b. Demonstrated spiritual and pastoral leadership,~~

~~— The names of the vetted candidates shall be submitted to the Commission on Nominations and Elections. The Commission on Nominations and Elections shall provide an open ballot at the Convention providing the Commission on Nominations and Elections has confirmed the vetting of anyone nominated from the floor and that such candidates meet the conditions for candidacy. The election of circuit counsellor shall be made by the delegates of the respective circuit providing the Commission on Nominations and Elections has confirmed the vetting of anyone nominated from the floor and that such candidates meet the conditions for candidacy. The regional pastor, in consultation with the president, shall fill any vacancies for circuit counsellor that may occur between Conventions.~~

(Renumber B. Officers 1. Circuit Counsellor)

4.009c The regional pastor, in consultation with the president, shall fill any vacancies for circuit counsellor that may occur between Conventions.

4.013 *A Non-member congregation is one that has not had a congregational constitution submitted to Synod for review and approval.* The jurisdiction of circuit counsellors shall include non-member congregations whose pastors are Members of LCC, but for the purpose of official visits in such a congregation the consent of the congregation shall first be secured.

4.023e Allow for *confidential* sharing of cases of ~~casuistry~~ *ministry anomalies and challenges in confidence* within the circuit pastors group.

5.001a.2 Member Congregations which violate this requirement and persist in such violation shall after due admonition *from the Regional Pastor* forfeit their membership in Lutheran Church-Canada.

5.001b.1 The term "deacon" shall include both male and female Members of the diaconate who have accepted a call having been:

- (i) Prepared and certified in our church's professional church worker program (~~e.g. teacher, director of parish services, parish nurse~~);

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- (ii) Prepared and certified through a certified program of the LCMS (~~e.g. teacher, Director of Christian Education, Director of Evangelism, deaconess, parish worker, lay minister~~).
- 5.003 Member Congregations shall seek the advice of the respective regional pastors *and Circuit Counsellor* when calling pastors or deacons.
- 5.005a a. Lutheran congregations not members of LCC making application to LCC for pastors or deacons to serve them shall also have the benefit of such official advice from the appropriate regional pastor *and Circuit Counsellor*.
- 5.009 A pastor if requested by a ~~non-Lutheran~~ congregation *outside of our Synodical fellowship* without a minister to fill its pulpit, may do so for a longer or shorter period of time, in order that such a congregation may hear the Word of God expounded in its truth and purity. Under such circumstances a pastor will not ~~publicly~~ celebrate the Lord's Supper *with any person* in that congregation. If such a congregation desires to extend a regular call to a pastor, the conditions as provided in bylaw 5.007c must be observed.
- 5.013a.1 He shall have completed the prescribed courses of study and have received a diploma from a seminary which has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding or have fulfilled the requisites for colloquy according to the Handbook, Bylaws 5.047 to ~~5.061 5.063~~, or have completed all requisites for the PAT program according to 5.089.
- 5.035e The records maintained by the respective regional pastor shall reflect the restricted status. In addition, the regional pastor shall notify in writing the president and all other ~~district presidents~~ *regional pastors* of such restricted status. The regional pastor shall also notify the congregation or other agency being served by the Member of the restricted status to take appropriate action so that the rights of both the Member and congregation or other agency are preserved.
- 5.043 The order for the ordination and commissioning, or commissioning of a missionary called into a foreign field shall be issued ~~upon the request of~~ *by the Board upon the request of the International Missions Committee* ~~by the regional pastor of that region in which the missionary resides~~. The order for the commissioning of missionaries for service within a region of the Synod shall be issued *by the Board upon the request of the* regional pastor of that region.
- 5.073 After the regional pastor has furnished the Committee with the required documents the committee shall publish the request of the applicant in the official periodical(s) of LCC. ~~Within a reasonable amount of time the~~ *The* Committee shall either accept or deny the application based on the information it receives in the application process *and render its decision within six months*. Its decision shall not be subject to any appeal.
- 5.083 The PAT Committee is composed of four members who serve ~~two~~ *four*-year terms: the PAT Coordinator *appointed by the PAT Committee*, one member appointed by

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each seminary and one member of the President's Ministry Council, who shall serve as chairman of the PAT Committee.

5.089b The program includes onsite training under the tutelage of a local mentoring pastor. Regular interviews will be conducted with the PAT student by regional pastors, seminary representatives, and the ~~supervisor~~ *coordinator* of the program.

5.089d In consultation with the PAT Committee, the ~~supervisor~~ *coordinator* shall administer the appropriate qualifying program and, when all requirements have been met, the PAT Committee will recommend the student to the President's Ministry Council for certification.

VI. HIGHER EDUCATION ~~Section 1.~~ Seminaries

12.001a Requirements. An organization desiring auxiliary status may apply to the Convention, through the Board, if it satisfies the following requirements:

5. It is classified by Canada ~~Customs and~~ Revenue Agency as a charitable organization;

12.001b Responsibilities. An approved auxiliary shall:

4. ~~K~~keep LCC advised of any new program under consideration;
and be it finally

RESOLVED that these changes be incorporated into the 2026 Handbook of LCC.

Motion C26.23: To adopt Resolution 26.1.11

Action: Adopted

Resolution 26.01.12 TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO SYNODICAL BYLAW 2.007F.

WHEREAS Resolution 17.03.05 was passed by the 2017 Synodical Convention; and

WHEREAS the wording of Resolution 17.03.05 was inadvertently omitted from the 2017 Handbook.

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the wording of Resolution 17.03.05 be included in the 2026 Handbook

and be if finally

RESOLVED that Synodical Bylaw 2.007f read as follows

All reports and overtures accepted by the president in accordance with the foregoing paragraphs shall be referred by him to convention committees appointed by him in the name of the Convention from among the voting delegates and advisors. Pastors, deacons (to the extent possible), and laymen shall be represented on all committees. The president shall notify committee members of their appointment and of the time and place of their first meeting no

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later than twelve (12) weeks before the start of the Convention. The committee rosters shall be published in the official periodicals of LCC, at least one of which must appear no less than 10 weeks before the Convention.

In order to expedite the transaction of business, the President shall refer all overtures submitted, with the exception of those listed in Synodical Bylaw 2.007c to the convention to Resolutions Committees. The purpose of the Resolutions Committees is to organize the overtures received and present them as resolutions to the convention. It is not the purpose of the Resolutions Committees to change the intent of the overtures submitted. They can, however, combine overtures on a similar topic into one resolution. They can also recommend to decline an overture.

The Resolutions Committees shall not create or present resolutions that do not originate from properly submitted reports and overtures. If the president deems it advisable, he may convene any committees prior to the opening of the Convention. The first issue of Today's Business shall be issued containing tentative resolutions. This issue of Today's Business shall be sent to all registered delegates of the Convention and to each Member Congregation.

Motion C26.24: To adopt Resolution 26.1.12

Action: Adopted

RESOLUTION 26.1.10 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAW 3.019 TO ALLOW SUB-REGIONAL PASTORS AND DEACONS CONFERENCES TO SUBMIT OVERTURES TO CONVENTION

(Reference Overture 1.12)

WHEREAS the West and Central Regions of LCC are geographically vast; and

WHEREAS these distances make travel costs to a Pastors and Deacons conference of the full Region exorbitant, so that in both Regions full Regional conferences only happen once a quadrennium, and sub-Regional conferences for the Pastors and Deacons are the norm, and those sub-Regions have been for many years defined as follows (Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba/northwest Ontario); and

WHEREAS East Region's travel and room and board costs are such that they are able to have official conferences of the full region twice a year; and

WHEREAS this circumstance disadvantages West and Central Regions from discussing, considering, and submitting overtures for the benefit of Lutheran Church-Canada;

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Therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Conferences of sub-Regions (as defined by the PMC) be authorized to submit overtures to Convention; and be it finally

RESOLVED that Synodical Bylaw 3.019.c be amended as follows:
c. The plenary and the sectional meetings of official conferences and of official conferences of sub-Regions (as defined by the PMC) may adopt and submit overtures to the Convention.

Motion C26.25: To adopt Resolution 26.1.10

Action: Adopted

RESOLUTION 26.1.03 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAW 3.009.a.1

(Reference Overture 1.03)

WHEREAS the current structure of the Regional Mission and Ministry Councils (RMMCs) does not include rostered deacons; and

WHEREAS deacons are valuable members of Synod who serve in designated deacon roles on other boards and commissions, and in advisory roles at Convention; and

WHEREAS the current wording of the Bylaw 3.009.a.1 excludes deacons from having an official role on the RMMCs; and

WHEREAS excluding deacons from serving their regions with their unique and specific perspective and gifts is a loss to the Synod; therefore be it

RESOLVED that if possible, each RMMC should include one deacon currently serving in the applicable region; and be it finally

RESOLVED that Bylaw 3.009.a.1 be amended to include the following as the final sentence: “If there is a deacon in a region who is willing and able to serve on the RMMC, he or she shall be appointed to the RMMC by the Regional Pastor.”

Motion C26.26: To adopt Resolution 26.1.03

Action: Adopted

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RESOLUTION 26.1.04 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAW 5.039 REINSTATEMENT

(Reference Overture 1.04)

WHEREAS the Synodical Bylaws provide provision for reinstatement of a Pastor or Deacon to the roster of LCC (Synodical Bylaw 5.039); and

WHEREAS the current procedure allows for only a yes or no by the President's Ministry Council; and

WHEREAS there may be situations where it is more appropriate for the President's Ministry Council to conditionally reinstate a Pastor or Deacon; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the text of Synodical Bylaw 5.039 be amended to read:

All applications for reinstatement to the clergy or diaconal roster shall be addressed to the regional pastor of the region in which the applicant resided at the time his/her membership was suspended. The regional pastor shall review the matter and report it to the President's Ministry Council, with or without recommendation. ~~The President's Ministry Council shall decide the issue by means of a written ballot.~~

The President's Ministry Council may decide yes, no, or a conditional reinstatement. A conditional reinstatement may include provisions of necessary supervision, internship, training, and the like. The applicant shall be made aware of the conditions and expectations required to remove the conditions.

If the applicant is reinstated, the Regional Pastor shall announce this fact in the official periodicals of LCC;

And be it finally

RESOLVED that the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure make any appropriate modifications to the LCC Synodical Bylaws in other places to carry through these provisions.

Motion C26.27: To adopt Resolution 26.1.04

Action: Adopted

**RESOLUTION 26.1.05 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAWS REGARDING THE ROLE OF
THE PRESIDENT IN RESTRICTED AND SUSPENDED STATUS**

(Reference Overture 1.05)

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WHEREAS prior to restructuring, the individual Districts were separately incorporated entities; and

WHEREAS as such the District President was the chief ecclesiastical officer of the District and therefore it was appropriate that the District President was responsible for restricting or suspending members; and

WHEREAS since restructuring there is only one corporation with the Synod President as chief ecclesiastical officer (Statutory Bylaw Article XI 11.11); therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Synodical Bylaws be amended to provide that the Synod President as chief ecclesiastical officer be responsible for restricting or suspending members; and be it further

RESOLVED that the following amendments be made to the Synodical Bylaws to reflect this, namely:

1.013.a be amended to read:

If information with respect to a pastor or deacon who is a Member of Lutheran Church-Canada is made known to or becomes known by the Regional Pastor and the Regional Pastor, after a reasonable investigation, believes that there may be a basis, given the nature of the circumstances, for suspending the membership of the person, the regional pastor *shall make report to the President. The President in consultation with the PMC* may suspend that person's membership until the matter is satisfactorily resolved or the applicable reconciliation and adjudication procedures, as set forth in Chapter VII of these Bylaws, can be completed.

And 5.035.a be amended to read:

a. A pastor or deacon may have his/her status restricted to the extent deemed necessary and appropriate by the ~~regional pastor who has ecclesiastical supervision of the Member.~~ *President as chief ecclesiastical officer. The President in consultation with the PMC* ~~The regional pastor~~ may take this action if information with respect to such Member provides a substantial basis to conclude that such a Member...

And 5.035.d be amended to read:

d. Restricted status shall normally be limited to one year. To extend the restricted status beyond this period, the ~~regional pastor~~ *President* shall ~~secure the approval of~~ *consult with* the President's Ministry Council. ~~Such approval must be secured~~ *This extension shall* be reviewed annually until such time as the ~~regional pastor~~ *President* removes this status. In such cases, the ~~regional pastor~~ *President*

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shall thereafter notify the pastor or deacon on restricted status in writing as to the reasons for such continuance of restricted status...

And 5.035.e be amended to read:

e. The records maintained by the ~~respective regional pastor~~ *President* shall reflect the restricted status. In addition, the ~~regional pastor~~ *President* shall notify in writing ~~the president and~~ *all Regional Pastors* and ~~other LCMS~~ district presidents of such restricted status. The ~~regional pastor~~ *President* shall also notify the congregation or other agency being served by the Member of the restricted status to take appropriate action so that the rights of both the Member and congregation or other agency are preserved.

And 5.037.c be amended to read:

c. When a Member is placed on suspended status, the ~~regional pastor~~ *President* as chief ecclesiastical officer shall

2. notify, in writing, ~~the president~~ all ~~other~~ regional pastors of the affected Member's suspended status;

And be it finally

RESOLVED that the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure make any appropriate modifications to the LCC Synodical Bylaws in other places to carry through these provisions.

Motion C26.28: To adopt Resolution 26.1.05

Action: Adopted

RESOLUTION 26.1.01a TO DECLINE OVERTURE 1.01

(Reference Overture 1.01)

WHEREAS Statutory Bylaw 15.11 states that the Personnel Committee of the Board of Directors “shall develop policies to be administered by the chief administrative officer governing the employment and remuneration of all executive staff and employees of LCC”; and

WHEREAS the proposed change to the title of the Associate Director – Family Ministries would require a corresponding change to the position's remuneration; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that Overture 1.01 be respectfully declined; and be it finally

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RESOLVED that the title change proposed in Overture 1.01 be referred to the Personnel Committee of the Board of Directors for consideration.

Motion C26.29: To adopt Resolution 26.1.01a

Action: Adopted

RESOLUTION 26.1.06 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAW 3.005

(Reference Overture 1.06)

WHEREAS prior to restructuring the District Presidents were “entitled to attend and to participate in meetings of the Board as non-voting advisors.” (Statutory Bylaw 11.04, 2014 LCC Handbook); and

WHEREAS the Regional Pastors are the equivalent successor role to that of the District Presidents; and

WHEREAS the Regional Pastors are the closest source of information for the Board of what is happening amongst the pastors, deacons, and congregations of Lutheran Church–Canada; and

WHEREAS the Regional Pastors are not merely staff of LCC but rather are called Pastors exercising ecclesiastical oversight in their respective regions and through the PMC; and

WHEREAS the right to provide input at the Board of Director meetings was removed from the 2017 Handbook; therefore be it

RESOLVED that Synodical Bylaw 3.005 be amended as follows:

d. Attend all meetings of the Board of Directors, exercising voice but no vote.

~~e.~~ Attend all meetings of the Regional Mission and Ministry Council,

~~e.~~ *f.* Attend all meetings of the President’s Ministry Council.

~~f.~~ *g.* Work collaboratively with the president, the Regional Mission and Ministry Council, circuit counsellors and the Members in that region,

~~g.~~ *h.* Negotiate other expectations in the annual review process.

And be it finally

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RESOLVED that the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure make any appropriate modifications to the LCC Synodical Bylaws in other places to carry through these provisions.

Motion C26.30: To adopt Resolution 26.1.06
Action: Adopted

RESOLUTION 26.1.07 TO AMEND SYNODICAL BYLAW 5.033

(Reference Overture 1.07)

WHEREAS Synodical Bylaw 5.033 provides for pastors and deacons to be on Candidate Status in such a way that requires their ability to perform the full duties of 5.029 (Active Status); and

WHEREAS there are situations where a pastor or deacon may be able to serve in a limited capacity; therefore be it

RESOLVED that bylaw 5.033 be amended as follows:

CURRENT:

5.033 Candidate Status

- a. A pastor or deacon who is eligible to perform the duties of the offices of ministry specified in bylaw 5.029 but who is not currently performing those duties and who is not retired may be retained on the roster upon application for such status to the regional pastor for a period of two consecutive years. For the extension of the candidate status beyond two consecutive years, a bi-annual application from the candidate as well as an evaluation by the regional pastor of the region of which the candidate is a Member shall be required. The President's Ministry Council shall determine whether or not requests for candidate status shall be granted, extended, or discontinued.
- b. Among criteria for determining whether candidate status should be granted or extended are: the health of the applicant; family considerations; the extent of his/her current involvement on a part-time and assisting basis in the ministry of Word and Sacrament; a demonstrated history and current ability of being able to perform the duties of an active pastor or deacon serving a Member Congregation or other position recognized by LCC; a demonstrated willingness to consider a call or appointment to a position recognized by LCC.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

5.033 Candidate Status

- a. A pastor or deacon may apply for either Full Candidate Status or Limited Candidate Status.
- b. **Full Candidate Status:** A pastor or deacon who is eligible to perform the duties of the offices specified in bylaw 5.029 but who is not currently performing those duties and who is not retired may be

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retained on the roster upon application for Full Candidate Status to the regional pastor for a period of two consecutive years. For the extension of the candidate status beyond two consecutive years, a biennial application from the candidate as well as an evaluation by the regional pastor of the region of which the candidate is a Member shall be required. The President's Ministry Council shall determine whether or not requests for Full Candidate Status shall be granted, extended, or discontinued.

c. While on Full Candidate Status, the pastor or deacon is eligible for a call.

d. **Limited Candidate Status:** A pastor or deacon who is eligible to perform the duties of the offices of ministry specified in bylaw 5.029 in a limited capacity but who is not currently performing those duties and who is not retired may be retained on the roster upon application for Limited Candidate Status to the regional pastor for a period of two consecutive years. For the extension of the Limited Candidate Status beyond two consecutive years, a biennial application from the candidate as well as an evaluation by the regional pastor of the region of which the candidate is a Member shall be required. The President's Ministry Council shall determine whether or not requests for Limited Candidate Status shall be granted, extended, or discontinued.

e. While on Limited Candidate Status, the pastor or deacon is not eligible for a call.

f. Among the criteria for determining whether a candidate shall be granted or extended either Full or Limited Candidate Status are: the health of the applicant; family considerations; the extent of his/her current involvement on a part-time and assisting basis in ministry; a demonstrated history and current ability of being able to perform the duties of an active pastor or deacon serving a Member Congregation or other position recognized by LCC; a demonstrated willingness to consider a call or appointment to a position recognized by LCC.

g. A candidate or his/her Regional Pastor may request a change from Limited Candidate Status to Full Candidate Status if circumstances change. The President's Ministry Council shall determine whether or not such a request shall be granted.

Motion C26.31: To adopt Resolution 26.1.07

Action: Adopted

**RESOLUTION 26.1.08 TO REQUEST THAT A NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING
COMMITTEE BE ADDED TO THE LIST OF STANDING
COMMITTEES**

(Reference Overture 1.10)

WHEREAS LCC's National Youth Gathering (NYG) has been a valuable triennial event for youth and adults across LCC; and

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- WHEREAS the NYG was operated under the auspices of the LCC Board for Parish Services (BPS) which oversaw all Synodical Youth programming from 1989 to 2002
- WHEREAS the NYG has operated independently since the BPS was dissolved in 2002 and desires to be within the formal structure of LCC for the purposes of support, encouragement, resource sharing, and the like; and
- WHEREAS the Board of Directors and the NYG Committee have been working together over the past quadrennium to formalize the relationship between the NYG and LCC; and
- WHEREAS the Board of Directors approved a motion in October of 2025 making the National Youth Gathering Committee an Ad Hoc Committee of LCC with the goal of seeking approval at the 2026 LCC Convention for making the National Youth Gathering Committee a Standing Committee of LCC; therefore be it
- RESOLVED That Article XV Section 15.03 of the Statutory Bylaws be amended by adding to the list of standing committees the following “National Youth Gathering Committee”; and be it finally
- RESOLVED That a new section be added to Article XV as follows “The National Youth Gathering Committee shall plan, organize, and carry out the National Youth Gathering every three years or at some other time frame as may be established.”

Motion C26.32: To adopt Resolution 26.1.08

Action: Adopted

RESOLUTION 26.1.09 TO REQUEST THAT AN ARCHIVES COMMITTEE BE ADDED TO THE LIST OF STANDING COMMITTEES

(Reference Overture 1.11)

- WHEREAS In October of 2023 the Board of Directors of LCC approved the appointment of an ad hoc Archives Committee to formulate, review, and recommend policies relating to the orderly acquiring, preserving, processing, and making available the records and cultural properties of Lutheran Church-Canada, its Boards, Committees, Regions, Agencies, Institutions, Auxiliaries, and Listed Service Organizations; and
- WHEREAS In November of 2024 the Board of Directors of LCC approved a motion stating that the Lutheran Church-Canada Board of Directors adopts as a long-term goal to have a centralized archive for Synod; and

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WHEREAS LCC has recently taken over ownership of the Malinsky Archives, formerly owned by Lutheran East District; and

WHEREAS In October of 2025 the Board of directors of LCC approved a motion to sponsor an overture to the 2026 Convention to amend the Handbook to create an Archives Standing Committee; therefore be it

RESOLVED That Article XV Section 15.03 of the Statutory Bylaws be amended by adding to the list of standing committees the following “Archives Committee”; and be it finally

RESOLVED That a new section be added to Article XV as follows “The Archives committee shall formulate, review, and recommend policies relating to the orderly acquiring, preserving, and making available the records and cultural properties of Lutheran Church-Canada, its Boards, Committees, and Regions and, upon request, assist where possible, its Agencies, Institutions, Auxiliaries, and Listed Service Organizations with the same.

Motion C26.33: To adopt Resolution 26.1.09

Action: Adopted

Elections for the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure

– Commission on Nominations and Elections, Reg Tiegs, Chairman

Nominations from the Floor - Lay:

None

Reg Tiegs presented the slate.

President Teuscher called for voting on the Ballot.

Election Results

First Ballot - Lay

Barbara Darrah (West) - 75 (29%)

Valerie Edward (lawyer) (East) – 205 (79.5%)

Ronald Faulkner (West) – 107 (41.5%)

Timothy Lach (lawyer) (Central) – 208 (80.6%)

Cam Pelzer (Central) – 74 (28.7%)

Delton Zehr (East) – 82 (31.8%)

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Pres. Teuscher declared Valerie Edward and Timothy Lach elected to the CCMS. Cam Pelzer received the lowest number of votes, so his name was dropped from the next ballot and a second ballot was presented to delegates.

Reg Tiegs presented the slate.
President Teuscher called for voting on the Ballot.

Second Ballot

Barbara Darrah (West) - 75 (28.8%)
Ronald Faulkner (West) – 112 (43.1%)
Delton Zehr (East) – 73 (28.1%)

Because no candidate received a majority, and Delton Zehr received the lowest number of votes, his name was dropped from the next ballot and a third ballot was presented to delegates.

Third Ballot

Barbara Darrah (West) - 103 (41%)
Ronald Faulkner (West) – 148 (59)

President Teuscher declared Ronald Faulkner elected to the CCMS.

Address to the Convention – President-elect Rev. David Haberstock

Announcements – Tasheney Francis, Director of Communications

Noon Daily Prayer – Rev. Cam Schnarr

Recess – President Teuscher declared the convention in recess until 1:30 pm at 12:12 pm (CDT)

MINUTES - Session 6

Call to Order

President Teuscher called the second session to order at 1:41 pm (CDT)

Prayer for the Afternoon's Work

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Elections for the Commission on Constitutional Matters and Structure

– Commission on Nominations and Elections, Reg Tiegs, Chairman

Rostered Workers

Reg Tiegs presented the slate.

First Ballot

Rev. Jeffery Dul (West)
Rev. Andrew McDonald (West)
Rev. Brian Falkenholt (West)

Pres. Teuscher declared Rev. Jeffery Dul, Rev. Andrew McDonald, Rev. Brian Falkenholt by acclamation to the CCMS.

Elections for the Regional Mission and Ministry Councils

– Commission on Nominations and Elections, Reg Tiegs, Chairman

First Ballot

Nominations from the Floor for RMMC:

None

Reg Tiegs presented the slate.
President Teuscher called for voting on the Ballot.

First Ballot

Results

Larry Durand (Northland Circuit) – 5 (71.4%)
Kirsten Guggenmos (Northland Circuit) – 2 (28.6%)

Pres. Teuscher declared Larry Durand elected to the Central Region RMMC

Josh Bentley (Edmonton Circuit) – 8 (53.3%)
Darla Hennig (Edmonton Circuit) – 7 (46.7%)

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Pres. Teuscher declared Josh Bentley elected to the West Region RMMC

Elections for the remaining positions will occur later in the day.

President Teuscher turned the chair over to Rev. Michael Schutz

Recognition of Retiring President and Regional Pastor

Rev. Schutz paid tribute to Rev. Mohns, who is retiring as West Regional Pastor. He then invited Rev. Bugbee forward to pay tribute to Rev. Teuscher, who is retiring as Synodical President. CAO Dwayne Cleave presented gifts to Rev. Mohns and Rev. Teuscher on behalf of the members of Synod.

Rev. Michael Schutz called Rev. Quast forward to introduce representatives of the LSO's and other entities and guests. He then turned the chair back to President Teuscher.

Recognition of LSO's and Other Entities and Guests

The following representatives were introduced to the convention:

LSO's	
Andrew Jackson, Chair	Haiti Lutheran Mission Society
Doug Petersen, Chair	BC Mission Boat Society
Rev. Ron Mohr, Executive Director	Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada
Rev. Howard Ulmer, President	Malabar Mission Society
Rev. Robin Korsch, President	Philoxenia/Hospitality Ministry
Rev. Adam Chandler, President	Lutherans for Life Canada
Allen Schellenberg, Executive Director	Lutheran Foundation Canada

The following special guests were also recognized:

OTHER ENTITIES AND GUESTS	
Rev. Rick Hiemstra, Director of the Centre for Research on Church and Faith	The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC)
Rev. Dr. Cary Larson, Presiding Pastor	The American Association of Lutheran Churches
Rev. Niran Temsakun (Tem-sah-coon), Director of Missions	Thailand Concordia Lutheran Church

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Rev. Michael Frese, Deputy Director of Church Relations	The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
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Greetings from the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod - Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison

Elections for the Regional Mission and Ministry Councils

– Commission on Nominations and Elections, Reg Tiegs, Chairman

Election of the Remaining Slate for the Regional Mission and Ministry Councils

Reg Tiegs presented the slate.

In the following regions and circuits there was only one candidate nominated for each position.

Central Region

Assiniboine Circuit

Ontario Circuit

Howard Fiskar (Ontario Circuit)

Red River Circuit

Gelane Bahiru (Red River Circuit)

Saskatoon Circuit

Denise Timm (Saskatoon Circuit)

Wascana Circuit

Barb Schentag (Wascana Circuit)

East Region

Hanover Circuit

Kim Kuhl (Hanover Circuit)

Kitchener Circuit

Anna Fierling (Kitchener Circuit)

Niagara Circuit

Scott Allan (Niagara Circuit)

Ottawa Circuit

Peter Dobias (Ottawa Circuit)

Stratford Circuit

Mark Rohfrietsch (Stratford Circuit)

Toronto Circuit

David Chant (Toronto Circuit)

Windsor Circuit

Matthew Zvrlic (Windsor Circuit)

West Region

Cariboo Circuit

Charles von Hahn (Cariboo Circuit)

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Greater Vancouver Circuit

Okanagan Circuit

Hope Mendes (Okanagan Circuit)

Peace River Circuit

Rick Slater (Peace River Circuit)

Stony Plain Circuit

Tiffany Playter (Stony Plain Circuit)

Vancouver Island Circuit

Sonja Bland (Vancouver Island Circuit)

Motion C26.34: That the convention recognize the above people as the members for their respective RMMCs.

Action: Adopted

Circuits where there were no nominations will have a member appointed by the Regional Pastor.

Resolutions Committee #3 – Finance and Sundry Matters – Rev. Fraser Coltman, Chairman

**RESOLUTION 26.3.04 ON THE ROLE AND JURISDICTION OF LEGAL COUNSEL
WITHIN SYNOD**

(Reference Overture 3.05, 3.06, 3.13)

WHEREAS Lutheran Church–Canada recognizes in her Handbook that Holy Scripture is the only rule and norm of all doctrine and practice within our Synod, as is also expressed and defined in the witness of the Lutheran Confessions to which all pastors and congregations freely give their loyalty and assent, and

WHEREAS the Synodical Bylaws of LCC gives provision for legal counsel in the Synod's work and ministry to ensure that all things are done decently and in order with all due honour, respect, and harmony with the government and its laws, and

WHEREAS Synodical Bylaw 2.007c states that "overtures, which, upon the advice of legal counsel, may subject LCC or the corporate officers of LCC to civil liability, shall not be accepted for Convention consideration," and

WHEREAS LCC's unconditional subscription to Biblical and Confessional authority governs its entire Handbook, including Synodical Bylaw 2.007c;

WHEREAS the Synod's confession and public proclamation of its doctrine is not limited to only to what is permitted by civil law as defined by legal counsel, and

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WHEREAS Scripture teaches that “we must obey God rather than man.” (Acts 5:29); therefore be it

RESOLVED that Lutheran Church–Canada in convention affirm that legal counsel is needed, encouraged and welcomed to serve LCC with guidance and expertise with respect to matters pertaining to her life and work within the laws of the state; and be it further

RESOLVED that LCC affirms that the proper roles and limits of legal counsel in the life, policies, and theological confession of the Synod are subject to Holy Scripture as the sole rule and norm of all doctrine and practice; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Synod President and CCMS be tasked with reviewing the Handbook over the next quadrennium, ensuring clarity with respect to the proper role and limits of the work of legal counsel.

Motion C26.35: To adopt Resolution 26.3.04

Action: Adopted

**RESOLUTION 26.3.08 TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUING FORMATION FOR PASTORS
AND DEACONS**

(Reference Overture 3.11)

WHEREAS LCC convention resolution 17.02.07 requested guidance from the PMC regarding continuing education expectations for all church workers; and

WHEREAS growth in maturity in faith and life never ends in a Christian's earthly life; and

WHEREAS no pastor or deacon is "fully formed" at the completion of formal church work programs and each one benefits from ongoing growth as he or she serves in their work; and

WHEREAS the Biblical qualifications of church workers are grounded not only in professional competency but primarily in Christian's character and therefore it is appropriate to use a broad heading of “formation” which includes both; and

WHEREAS LCC's core objectives explicitly include the effort to "recruit and train pastors, deacons, and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth" (Constitution, Article III); and

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WHEREAS every pastor makes the commitment to diligence in the study of Holy Scripture and the Confessions and every deacon makes the commitment to growth in love and excellence in skill; and

WHEREAS pastors and deacons face ever-changing challenges during the course of their work in the church; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Member Congregations of LCC and Synodical leadership strongly encourage LCC workers to be involved in continuing education and formation for their own benefit and the benefit of the whole church; and be it further

RESOLVED that each pastor and deacon strive to develop and carry out a plan for his or her own continuing education and formation over the next quadrennium; and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations, as recommended by LCC's Compensation Guidelines, strive to contribute to existing funding structures and opportunities for their pastors and deacons; and be it finally

RESOLVED that LCC in convention direct the PMC to develop further guidance and expectations for continuing formation within the next quadrennium.

Motion C26.36: To adopt Resolution 26.3.08

Action: Adopted

RESOLUTION 26.3.06 TO RESPECTFULLY DECLINE OVERTURES 3.08 AND 3.09

(Reference Overture 3.08 and 3.09)

WHEREAS the oversight of Domestic Missions has changed under Lutheran Church–Canada's new structure; and

WHEREAS its organization is developing through the work of the Director of Domestic Missions, whose responsibilities are defined in an LCC job description, in partnership with Regional Pastors, RMMC's and congregations; and

WHEREAS there are some "mission tools" like "Recognized Mission Congregations" and "Strategic Mission Areas" that have been successfully used; and

WHEREAS such knowledge can be shared with the Director of Domestic Missions and RMMC's with a view to preserving them and their utility without enshrining the practices in the synodical bylaws; be it therefore

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RESOLVED that Overtures 3.08 and 3.09 be respectfully declined.

Motion C26.37: To adopt Resolution 26.3.06

Action: Adopted

Greeting from the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod – Rev. Dr. Matt Harrison

Resolutions Committee #2 – Theology and Church Relations – Rev. Brian Dunlop, Chairman

RESOLUTION 26.2.01a TO STUDY THE TERM “BISHOP” AND THE TIME LIMIT OF CALLS

(Reference Overtures 2.01 and 2.02)

WHEREAS Resolution 2.01 proposed calling Regional Pastors and Synod Presidents without time limit, removing the necessity to be re-elected at subsequent conventions until they retire, accept another call, are incapacitated, or removed for appropriate Scriptural reasons from their call; and

WHEREAS Resolution 2.02 proposed Regional Pastors be called “Regional Bishops,” Synod President be called “Synodical Bishop,” and Synodical Vice President be called “Assistant to the Synodical Bishop,” and the Synod Handbook be adjusted accordingly; and

WHEREAS there are significant issues involved that cannot be fully explored in the context of a convention; and

WHEREAS all theological matters ought to be decided on the basis of thorough study of the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Commission on Theology and Church Relations be charged with producing study materials on the time limit for calls to LCC’s ecclesiastical supervisors and the terminology of “bishop” as it is used in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; with special attention to earlier studies of both matters within LCC and the LCMS and be it finally

RESOLVED that such materials be distributed to the synod no later than two years prior to the next convention, which then should be used for study at circuit forums, Winkels, pastoral conferences, and congregational studies.

Motion C26.38 To insert “with special attention to earlier studies of both matters within LCC and the

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LCMS” in the first RESOLVED

Action: Adopted

Motion C26.39: To adopt Resolution 26.2.01a as amended

Action: Adopted

**RESOLUTION 26.2.12 TO STUDY TERMINOLOGY REGARDING THE DIACONATE OF
LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA**

(Reference Overtures 2.15 and 3.01)

WHEREAS Genesis 1: 31 says, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” And this created order is a great blessing to be taught and celebrated; and

WHEREAS movements in our society have sought to confuse those sexual distinctions, and call evil what God has called good; and

WHEREAS “God is not a God of confusion, but of peace” and “all things should be done decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40); and

WHEREAS it is always desirable to align our terminology with Scriptural language to the highest degree we can; and

WHEREAS 1 Timothy 3:8-13 refers to an office of “deacon” (diakonos) limited to men; and

WHEREAS women such as Phoebe (in Romans 16:1) were referred to with a gendered form of “deacon” translatable as “servant” or “deaconess”; and

WHEREAS our current practice in LCC is to refer to all synodically trained professional church workers who do not hold the Office of Holy Ministry as the “diaconate” collectively, and as “deacon” individually regardless of gender, and

WHEREAS clarity of terminology and understanding is desirable for peace and concord within the church; therefore be it

RESOLVED that LCC in convention assign the President to conduct a review of the foundational documents on the establishment of the diaconate, the uniqueness and blessing of male deacons and female deacons (or deaconesses), terminology, nomenclature and any differences of service; and be it further

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RESOLVED that this review be done in consultation with the PMC, CTCR, laity, diaconate and pastors; and be it finally

RESOLVED that he bring forward recommendations through the PMC for presentation at the 2030 Convention.

Motion C26.40: To adopt Resolution 26.2.12

Action: Adopted

Commendation of the Faithful Departed

Announcements – Tasheney Francis, Director of Communications

Recess – President Teuscher declared the convention in recess until 8:15 am Monday morning at 4:03 pm (CDT)