



September 2024

TO VOTING CONGREGATIONS OF THE LCMS TEXAS DISTRICT:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is my privilege to serve as your secretary for the LCMS Texas District. In this role, it is my responsibility to ensure that voting delegates to the 2025 Texas District Convention, scheduled for June 5-7, 2025, in Houston, Texas, are properly credentialed to serve in their special roles.

Voting delegates to a district convention are defined in Synod Constitution Article XII.10.a (*reference also Texas District Bylaw 4.003*), as follows: *“Every member congregation or multi-congregation parish is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be cast by its pastor and the other by the lay delegate elected and deputed by the congregation or parish.”*

Please note the credentialing process for this convention from Synod Bylaw 4.2.2(a), which reads:

“To be entitled to vote, delegates shall return the proper credentials provided by the district secretary and signed by two of the congregation’s officers, either by mailing them to the district office at a date determined by the district or by presenting them to the district secretary at the opening of the convention.”

The responsibility of voting delegates is detailed in Synod Bylaw 4.2.2(b), as follows: *“All duly elected voting delegates shall attend all sessions of the convention regularly until the close of the convention.”*

Accordingly, please find enclosed in this mailing a **“2025 Voting Delegate Credential Form”** to be completed and returned, as specified, for this credentialing process. **For the 2025 Texas District Convention, we are STRONGLY ENCOURAGE your mailing the credential form in advance of the convention to the district office using the enclosed self-addressed envelope.** By sending the forms to the district in advance, the onsite convention registration process will be greatly expedited. **The deadline set for the advanced mailing of credentials to be received in the district office is May 5, 2025.**

Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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www.txlcms.org

Please note that the voting delegate credential form included with this mailing is one page with space for both lay and alternate lay delegates and clergy delegate, as well as space for the name of a Multi-Congregation Parish Advisory Lay Delegate (explained below). It requires one set of signatures by two officers of the congregation, as per Synod Bylaw 4.2.2(a).

Plus, for multi-congregation parishes, there is an opportunity for the congregation(s) not sending the voting lay delegate to elect and send an advisory lay delegate to the convention. This is in accord with a Constitution revision adopted at the 2019 Synod convention and approved by the congregations of the Synod. Synod Constitution Article XII.10.b (*reference also Texas District Bylaw 4.003 b.*) now reads regarding Advisory Delegates to district conventions, in part, as follows: “In addition, a congregation that is part of a multi-congregation parish, other than the congregation supplying the voting lay delegate, may elect and depute an advisory lay delegate.”

So, if a multi-congregation parish congregation elects to send an advisory lay delegate to the district convention, please complete the **Multi-Congregation Parish Advisory Lay Delegate** entry on the form and return it. Note: The advisory lay delegate will have voice but no vote at the convention, but is eligible to voice and vote on a convention floor committee, if appointed to serve.

Hopefully, you will find the Delegate Credential Form to be self-explanatory and will be able to complete and return the form to the district office by May 5, 2025. Note that you can still present the credential form at the convention. However, the process will be much smoother if the form is returned in advance.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please note that a credential form **does not take the place of registration for the convention.** **BOTH** the online convention registration **and** the delegate credential form must be completed. The online convention registration is used to establish general convention contact information, name badges, etc. Whereas, the credential form, which includes the officer signatures, is used strictly for the credentialing process.

If you have any questions regarding the credential process, feel free to contact me at my office at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waco (Bellmead), 254-799-3211, or via email at secretary@txlcms.org.

Thank you and God bless your convention preparations.

Rev. Dr. Brian J. Hesse
Secretary, Texas District

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