



63rd Convention of the Texas District – LCMS

Minutes of June 6, 2025

Hosted by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Nassau Bay, TX.

The 63rd Convention of the Texas District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod took place June 5-7, 2025 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston TX.

Morning General Business Session 1 of June 6, 2025: The assembly was greeted with a video sharing Texas Partners in Mission. President greeted the assembly of the convention beginning at 8:31 AM. The total amount gathered in the worship offering was \$5,562.35 to benefit Texas Partners in Mission.

Opening Devotion and Bible Study: The 63rd Convention of the Texas District continued with the opening devotion offered by Rev. Randy Miller sharing from Acts 6.

Minutes Review Committee and Registration Report #3: Secretary Brian Hesse reported that the previous days minutes have been reviewed by the Minutes Review Committee and found to in order. The minutes are made available via the Convention District website.

Rev. Larry Krueger provided the following Convention Registration Report.

REPORT DATE: 6/6/2025	REPORT TIME: 8:30 AM
VOTING DELEGATES	Clergy: 194 Lay: 192 TOTAL VOTING: 386
NON-VOTING DELEGATES	Advisory, Ordained: 46 Advisory, Commissioned: 23 TOTAL NON-VOTING: 69
GUESTS	Guests, Visitors, Exhibitors: TOTAL GUESTS: 208
TOTAL FOR CONVENTION	TOTAL: 663

Elections Continued: Rev. Kevin Hintze

Election of LCMS Committee for Convention Nominations Delegate: Rev. Dan Schepman was elected on the 2nd ballot.

Election of LCMS Committee for Convention Nominations Alternate Delegate: Rev. James Martin Richardson was elected on the 3rd ballot.

Ratification of the Circuit Visitors' Slate:

President Newman presented the slate of 40 district circuit visitors for ratification by the assembly. The slate was ratified by the assembly by 304 or 97.75% Yes votes and 7 or 2.25% No votes. The president asked the circuit visitors to stand and be recognized.

Resolutions of the Mission and Ministry Floor Committee:

President Newman welcomed before the assembly Floor Committee One, chaired by Vice President Nathan Wendorf.

Resolution 01-01-25 was presented to the assembly and the floor committee moved adoption. Delegates requested Points of Information and discussion on the motion. Pastor Hill moved the previous question and it was seconded. The motion to end debate was adopted 281 or 87% Yes votes and 42 or 13% No votes. The resolution was adopted with 282 or 86.77% Yes votes and 42 or 13.23% No votes.

Resolution 01-02-25 was presented to the assembly and the floor committee moved adoption. There was no discussion on the motion. The resolution was adopted with 293 or 90.71% Yes votes and 30 or 9.29% No votes.

Resolution 01-03-25 was presented to the assembly and the floor committee moved adoption. There was discussion on the motion with 3 delegates speaking in favor of the resolution. The resolution was adopted with 311 or 93.11% Yes votes and 23 or 6.89% No votes.

Resolution 01-04-25 was presented to the assembly and the floor committee moved adoption. There was a requested point of information on the motion. The resolution was adopted with 314 or 95.44% Yes votes and 15 or 4.56% No votes. President Newman then asked the commissioned workers of the district present to stand and be recognized.

Resolution 01-05-25 was presented to the assembly and the floor committee moved adoption. There was discussion on the motion. The resolution was adopted with 310 or 93.66% Yes votes and 21 or 6.34% No votes.

Omnibus Resolution A: President Newman provided explanation on the purpose of an omnibus resolution. The floor committee presented the omnibus resolution to the assembly and the floor committee moved adoption. There was no discussion on the motion. The resolution was adopted with 278 or 86.88% Yes votes and 42 or 13.12% No votes.

The work of Floor Committee 1 was completed and the assembly thanked the floor committee by offering applause.

The Assembly took a short standing break.

Resolutions of the Governance and Administration Floor Committee:

President Newman welcomed before the assembly Floor Committee Two, chaired by Vice President John Davis. Vice President Davis offered some introduction from the floor committee regarding the revisions made as a result of the open hearings held the previous day. An editorial change was also made to Omnibus Resolution A for the title to read: "Omnibus Resolution A—To Respectfully Refer Overtures."

Resolution 02-01-25 was presented to the assembly and the floor committee moved adoption. Brian Kachelmeier moved to offer a substitute resolution of the original Overture 02-01-25 as printed on page 209 and 210 of the Convention Workbook. The motion was seconded. The Behnken Rule was applied by the chair and the delegate was given 2 minutes for rationale of the substitute motion. The Floor Committee was also given 2 minutes to offer rationale. The Behnken Rule requires immediate vote to accept the substitute motion. The substitute motion was defeated with 114 or 34.44% and 217 or 65.56% No votes.

Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller moved amendment to Resolution 02-01-25 the amendment was seconded by the assembly. The Amendment to add the following language:

WHEREAS, changing the “sabbatical” from a time of renewed blessings for the church worker to a time of stress, uncertainty, and confusion, thus misusing and abusing the “sabbatical” as a tool to bring about an artificial peace and to present both parties with a white-washed appearance, as if there is no harboring of hatred against and hurt from the other; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of Directors of Texas District of the LCMS be encouraged to establish a review board to oversee all “sabbaticals” that are initiated while a district representative is engaged with a congregation involved in a dispute, with the goal of protecting the congregation and the church worker; and be it further

President Newman as the Chair is ruling the amendment out of order in accordance with the Bylaws of the Synod.

Resolution 02-01-25 was moved to be postponed until the afternoon business session and motion was seconded. Rev. Nathan Hill moved the previous question to cease debate on postponing the motion. Motion to cease debate was approved with 300 or 91.19% Yes votes and 29 or 8.81% No votes. The motion to postponing Resolution 02-01-25 was adopted with 241 or 70.26% Yes votes and 102 or 29.74% No votes. Resolution 02-01-25 is postponed until the afternoon business session.

Resolution 02-02-25 was presented to the assembly and the floor committee moved adoption. Rev. David Reedy, pastoral voting delegate, moved to call the previous question to cease debate. Motion to cease debate was adopted 273 or 80.53% Yes votes and 66 or 19.47% No votes. The resolution was adopted with 282 or 84.43% Yes votes and 52 or 15.57% No votes.

Resolution 02-03-25a was presented to the assembly and the floor committee moved adoption.

Rev. Brian Kachelmeier moved amendment of the 5th Whereas on page 2 of the resolution. A delegate seconded the amendment as stated below:

WHEREAS, the Lutheran Confessions uphold and affirm that a Christian’s identity – not just individually but also corporately – may be expressed differently in different places because of our unity in faith and simultaneously our freedom in Christ **never-the-less, to nurture unity in practice this freedom should not be abused. “Still, we teach that freedom should be so controlled that the inexperienced may not be offended and, because of freedom’s abuse [Romans 14:13-23], may not become more opposed to the true doctrine of the Gospel. Nothing in customary rites should be changed without reasonable cause. So to nurture unity, old customs that can be kept without sin or great inconvenience should be kept. Apology, Article XV, 51 (Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions).”**

The amendment received discussion. After a time of debate and discussion on the amendment, Rev. Nathan Hill moved to call the previous question and end debate. The motion was seconded. Motion to cease debate was adopted

with 232 or 70.52% Yes votes and 97 or 29.48% No votes. Motion to amend was defeated with 142 or 43.03% Yes votes and 188 or 56.97% No votes.

Resolution 02-03-25a is returned to the floor of the assembly for debate and discussion. Rev. Ted Benson moved to call the previous question to end debate and the motion was seconded. The motion was adopted 232 or 68.44% Yes votes and 107 or 31.56% No votes. Resolution 02-03-25 was adopted with 174 or 50.43% Yes votes and 171 or 49.57% No votes.

Privileged Motion to have the opportunity to record names of No votes for Resolution 02-03-25a with the District Secretary for inclusion in the minutes was adopted with 232 or 69.46% Yes votes and 102 or 30.54% No votes. These names will be recorded in [Appendix A](#) below.

Resolution 02-04-25a was presented to the assembly and the floor committee moved adoption. There was no discussion on the motion. The resolution was adopted with 294 or 90.74% Yes votes and 30 or 9.26% No votes.

Omnibus Resolution A – To Respectfully Refer Overtures was presented to the assembly and moved for adoption by the floor committee.

A delegate moved to amend the resolution to add Overture 02-14-25. The amendment was seconded. There was discussion on the amendment. The amendment was adopted with 259 or 79.94% Yes votes and 65 or 20.06% No votes.

Omnibus Resolution A as amend goes before the assembly with discussion and debate. The chair per the orders of the day ended the debate calling for vote on the resolution. Omnibus Resolution A was adopted with 256 or 79.01% Yes votes and 68 or 20.99% No votes.

Lunch Break Out Sessions: At 12:05 PM the orders of the day were reached. Pastor Dan Schepman offered prayer for lunch.

Business Session II: President Newman began this session with prayer.

District Catalyst Team: President Newman welcome the Mission Catalyst Team to the podium for their report.

Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther began the report with an introductory video and continued with the missional aims of the district.

Rev. Pete Mueller offered a report and commentary on the Evangelist Training happening district wide.

Rev. Lincon Guerra presented on the expansion of Hispanic ministry across the Text district.

Rev. Ben Gonzalez shared on the Discipleship and Prayer Ministry.

Additional Business of Floor Committees:

General Consent Addition to the Minutes: It was requested to be stated in the minutes that Resolution 02-03-25a was not referencing Concordia University Texas or any part for the Concordia University System. This is added to the minutes by the general consent of the assembly with no objections.

Postponed Resolution 02-01-25 returns to the assembly for consideration. Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller moved to amend the resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, Sabbaticals can serve to bless both the church worker and the congregation/ministry when there is a mutual awareness of the need of and opportunities provided by such a sabbatical, **and yet can create hurt and strife when not used for the reasons listed above**, therefore, be it

Add also adding the following as the 3rd RESOLVED.

RESOLVED, that included in that template would be the restarting of the admonition in the Texas District Sabbatical Guidelines that, “There needs to be mutual agreement by the professional church worker and congregation/school on the sabbatical plan.”; and be it further...

A delegate seconded the amendment and is open for discussion. The Amendment was adopted 314 or 96.91% Yes Votes and 10 or 3.09% No votes.

The Amended Resolution is before the assembly for discussion and debate. The Amendment was adopted with 324 or 97.01% Yes votes and 10 or 2.99% No votes.

Omnibus Resolution B was presented by Floor Committee 2 and moved for adoption. Omnibus Resolution B was adopted with 282 or 89.52% Yes votes and 33 or 10.48% No votes.

Omnibus Resolution C was presented by Floor Committee 2 and moved for adoption. Omnibus Resolution C was adopted with 302 or 92.07% Yes votes and 26 or 7.93% No votes.

This concluded the business of Floor Committee 2 and the assembly thanked them for their service.

Recognition of Church Worker Anniversaries: President read the names of those printed in the Convention Workbook celebrating worker anniversaries beginning with the commissioned ministers. He also read the names of the ordained workers also celebrating anniversaries. He invited any present workers to please stand and be recognized.

Bible Study “Struggle Well – 7 Gifts for Strength”: President Newman started the Bible Study with prayer and continued our Bible Study in Daniel Chapters 4-12. Bible Study was closed with prayer and encouragement to struggle well.

President’s Announcements and Recognitions: President Matthew C. Harrison was welcomed to the convention. President Newman thanked and recognized the Convention Planning Committee and district staff and Gloria Dei staff and Gloria Dei volunteers for making this convention possible.

Installation of Elected District Officials:

President Newman installed District Vice Presidents.

President Newman installed the District Secretary, members of the Board of Directors and members of the Board for Mission Administration.

President Newman installed the Circuit Visitors of the District.

Synod President Matthew Harrison was invited forward with Vice President Murray for the installation of the new Texas District President, Rev. Dr. Jon Braunersreuther.

Closing Orders of the Day: President Newman made several announcements about the end and accomplishing of the agenda for the day (a little early). Pastor Dan Schepman was invited forward for a closing prayer at 4:42 PM.

Appendix A: Voting Delegates Wishing to Voluntarily Express a “No” Vote of Resolution 02-03-25a

Voting Delegates Voting No:

1. Dan Bacon, Faith, Mexia
2. Jon Barry, Holy Cross, Canton
3. Mr. Micah Black, Trintiy, Navasota
4. Rev. Ricky Black, Trinity, Amarillo
5. Rev. Kory Boster, Christ, Pattison
6. David Brockhouse, Mt. Olive, San Antonio
7. Mr. William Bryson, Grace, San Marcos
8. Rev. Kenneth Bunge, First, Lufkin
9. Rev. Tom Chryst, Messiah, Keller
10. Rev. Allen Eckert, Trinity, San Angelo
11. Rev. Michael Erickson, Zion, Pampa
12. Rev. Russell A. Etzel, Concordia Houston
13. Rev. John De Young, Cross of Christ, De Soto
14. Rev. Mark De Young, St. Peter, Bowie
15. Mr. Garrett Fortson, St. John’s, Dumas
16. Philip Frank, Redeemer and St. Paul, Alpine and Monahans
17. Rev. Alex Garber, Trinity, Livingston
18. Mr. Justin Giese, Faith, Aransas Pass
19. Addison Graham, St. Matthew, Houston
20. Mr. Timothy Goodale, Crown of Life, San Antonio
21. Ernest Hamann, Zion, Tomball
22. Rev. Scott E. Herbert, Zion, Tomball
23. Faron Hice, Good Shepherd, Angleton
24. Sean Higginbotham, Resurrection, Spring
25. Rev. Mark Huston, Holy Cross, Canton
26. Rev. Brian Kachelmeier, Crown of Life, San Antonio
27. Rev. Jason Kaspar, Mt. Calvary, La Grange
28. Rev. Paul Kaiser, St. Paul, Edna
29. Rev. Peter Kolb, St. Mark, Waco
30. Mr. Thomas Lee, Cross of Christ, De Soto
31. Mr. Jason Lehmann, Mt. Calvary, La Grange
32. Mr. Ken May, Zion, Pampa
33. Mr. Paul Mews, Grace, Menard
34. Eddie Miller, Grace, Victoria
35. Rev. Richard Mittelstadt, Grace, Brownwood
36. Ned A. Moerbe, Memorial, Houston
37. Matthew Nelson, Redeemer, Atlanta
38. Mr. Kyle Norton, Jesus Lutheran, Austin
39. Rev. Ryan J. Ogradowicz, Grace Brenham
40. Rev. Tab Ottmers, Fairview,
41. Rev. Bob Pase, Our Savior, Abilene

42. Robert Quada, St. Mark, Conroe
43. Mrs. Jennifer Reeves, St. Luke, Olney
44. Rev. Sean Reeves, St. Luke, Olney
45. Rebecca Reyes, St. Matthew, Westfield – “Here I stand”
46. Bobby Roever, Alive in Christ, Big Spring
47. Mr. Doug Rohloff, Victory in Christ, Newark
48. Rev. Dr. Tim Rosenthal, Grace, Menard
49. Mr. James Runzheimer, Grace, Arlington
50. Rev. Philip Schielke, Victory in Christ, Newark
51. Rev. Troy Scroggins, St. John’s, Dumas
52. Stephen Sedory, Kingsville,
53. Mr. Jonathan Shields, Divine Savior, Devine
54. Rev. Randall Smith, Bethlehem, North Zulch
55. Mr. Christopher Stubblefield, Immanuel, Fairview
56. Rev. Alan Taylor, St. John, Galveston
57. Mark Taylor, Faith, Plano
58. Byron Terral, Immanuel, Mercedes
59. Tom Theiss, First, Lufkin
60. Tommy Todd, Faith, Plano
61. Mr. Bill Tucker, St. Mark, Waco
62. Rev. Edmund Weber, Immanuel, Mercedes
63. Rev. Randall Wehmeyer, Divine Savior, Devine
64. Rev. Mark Wiesenborn, St. Matthew, Houston
65. Rev. Thomas Winter, St. Peter, Pearsall
66. Benjamin Wiseman, Concordia, Houston
67. Rev. David Woelmer, Smithville
68. Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller, St. Paul and Jesus Deaf, Austin
69. Mr. Thomas Wolfmueller, Grace, Midland
70. Mr. John Young, Grace, Brenham