

1 **To Establish a Process by Which Commissioned Ministers May Be Elected**
2 **Delegates for District Conventions**

3
4 Whereas commissioned ministers of Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod are not eligible
5 to serve as voting delegates to its district conventions; and
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7 Whereas while many have recognized that this is basically unfair no one has offered a
8 proposal that has been found acceptable to correct it; and
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10 Whereas in many congregations non-rostered individuals fill roles traditionally held by
11 commissioned ministers with the result that lay teachers are able to serve as
12 voting delegates at district conventions while their synodically certified colleagues
13 are not; and
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15 Whereas one difficulty the Synod has had in trying to address the issue of voting by
16 commissioned ministers is the practice of maintaining a balance between clergy
17 and lay voters with commissioned ministers not fitting in either category; and
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19 Whereas this resolution is crafted in such a way as to respect that balance and impact it
20 as little as possible; and
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22 Whereas another difficulty has been the desire that all congregations should be
23 represented equally; and
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25 Whereas this resolution maintains that as much as possible all congregations should
26 have equal voice in selecting delegates whether their congregation is served by
27 commissioned ministers or not; therefore be it
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29 Resolved, that the Ohio District petition the 2010 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
30 convention to revisit the issue of a convention franchise for commissioned
31 ministers at district conventions; and be it further
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33 Resolved, that henceforth delegates to district conventions include a commissioned
34 minister from each circuit; and be it further
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36 Resolved, that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in convention adopt the following
37 process for selecting commissioned ministers to serve as voting delegates to
38 district conventions:
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- 40 1. Each circuit shall meet at the call of the counselor to elect its commissioned
41 minister not later than six months prior to the opening day of the district
42 convention.
- 43 2. The privilege of voting shall be exercised by one pastor and one layperson
44 from each member congregation of the circuit, both of whom shall have been
45 selected in the manner prescribed by the congregation. Multiple parishes
46 shall be entitled to a lay vote from each member congregation.

RESOLUTION 5

- 47 3. All commissioned ministers shall be eligible for election.
48 a. Each voter may write in the names of two commissioned ministers on the
49 initial ballot. The three commissioned ministers (or more in the case of a
50 tie vote) who received the highest number of votes in this preliminary
51 ballot shall be placed on the next ballot.
52 b. Each voter shall now vote for only one candidate. Balloting shall continue
53 with the lowest candidate being removed from each succeeding ballot until
54 one commissioned minister shall have received a simple majority of all
55 votes cast, whereupon he or she shall be declared the commissioned
56 minister delegate.
57 c. The congregation served by the elected commissioned minister delegate
58 shall be removed from consideration for supplying the alternate
59 commissioned minister delegate for that particular convention unless there
60 are no other commissioned ministers available for election from other
61 congregations.
62 d. All other commissioned ministers who received votes in the initial write-in
63 ballot, except those who were eliminated through the election of the
64 commissioned minister delegate shall be eligible for election as the
65 alternate.
66 e. Balloting shall continue with the lowest candidate being removed from
67 each succeeding ballot until one commissioned minister shall have
68 received a simple majority of all votes cast, whereupon he or she shall be
69 declared the alternate commissioned minister delegate.
70 4. The counselor shall report the results of the election to the secretary of the
71 district in writing immediately after said election.
72 5. If neither the delegate nor the alternate can serve, the vacancy may be filled
73 by the district president in consultation with the respective circuit counselor.
74 6. Circuits which have no commissioned ministers who hold membership in a
75 circuit congregation will have no commissioned minister delegate for the
76 district convention.
77 7. Costs for the commissioned minister delegates to the district convention shall
78 be covered by the same process used to cover the costs of lay and pastoral
79 delegates.
80 8. With the provision for commissioned minister delegates, status of
81 commissioned ministers as advisory delegates shall cease; and, be it finally,
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83 Resolved, that the Commission on Constitutional Matters shall make such changes to
84 the by laws of Synod as are necessary to implement this resolution.