

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

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4 Preamble: This resolution presupposes adoption of the resolution "To Establish a
5 Process by Which Commissioned Ministers May Be Elected Delegates for District
6 Conventions."

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8 Whereas commissioned ministers of Lutheran Church Missouri Synod are not eligible to
9 serve as voting delegates to synodical conventions; and

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11 Whereas while many have recognized that this is basically unfair no one has offered a
12 proposal that has been found acceptable to correct it; and

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14 Whereas in many congregations non-rostered individuals fill roles traditionally held by
15 commissioned ministers with the result that lay teachers are eligible to serve as
16 voting lay delegates at synodical conventions while their synodically certified
17 colleagues are not; and

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19 Whereas one difficulty the Synod has had in trying to address the issue of voting by
20 commissioned ministers is the practice of maintaining a balance between clergy
21 and lay voters with commissioned ministers not fitting in either category; and

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23 Whereas this resolution is crafted in such a way as to respect that balance and impact it
24 as little as possible; and

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26 Whereas another difficulty has been the desire that all congregations should be
27 represented equally; and

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29 Whereas this resolution maintains that as much as possible all congregations should
30 have equal voice in selecting delegates whether their congregation is served by
31 commissioned ministers or not; therefore be it

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33 Resolved, that the Ohio District petition the 2010 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
34 convention to revisit the issue of a convention franchise at synodical conventions
35 for commissioned ministers; and be it further

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37 Resolved, that the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod in convention adopt the following
38 process for selecting commissioned ministers to serve as voting delegates to
39 synodical conventions:

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41 1. Each district shall elect (a) commissioned minister(s) at its district convention
42 to serve as (a) voting delegate(s) to the Synodical convention.
43 2. All districts shall be entitled to at least one commissioned minister voting
44 delegate. Districts with more than ten non-exceptional circuits shall be
45 entitled to one extra commissioned minister delegate and one more in every

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- 46 multiple of four above that. (i.e. districts with 11 circuits will have two
47 delegates, if there are 15 eligible circuits they receive 3 delegates, etc.)
- 48 3. Non-exceptional circuits are those that meet all the numerical requirements in
49 bylaw 5.1.1 without exception.
- 50 4. All commissioned ministers who have served as voting delegates to their
51 district convention shall be considered nominees for election as a voting
52 district commissioned minister delegate to the synodical convention unless
53 they remove themselves for consideration by notifying their district secretary.
- 54 5. A commissioned minister who receives a majority of the votes cast shall be
55 elected as district commissioned minister delegate to the Synodical
56 convention.
- 57 6. If further balloting is necessary the ballot shall contain two names for every
58 remaining position to be elected determined by who received the highest
59 number of votes on the first ballot. On all subsequent ballots the
60 commissioned minister with the lowest number of votes shall be removed
61 from the ballot.
- 62 9. Six months prior to each district's convention the Secretary of Synod shall
63 determine how many commissioned ministers each district is entitled to elect
64 and notify the district secretary of this number; and be it finally

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66 Resolved, that the Commission on Constitutional Matters shall make such changes to
67 the bylaws of Synod as are necessary in order to implement this resolution.