

**PRE-CONVENTION** (Friday, April 4, 1997)

Registration

Floor Committee Meetings and Hearings

Circuit Caucuses of Select Circuits

**FIRST SESSION**

(Friday, April 4)

The Convention began at 2:40 p.m. with the Invocation led by President Howard Patten.

With a quorum in attendance, President Howard Patten officially opened the Convention.

Orientation was held for all the delegates.

The chairman of the Credentials Committee, Rev. Gerald Radtke, reported that 284 Voting Delegates, 71 Advisory Delegates, and 132 Guests were present.

A question was raised about temporary pastors serving congregations and their eligibility to vote. Dr. A.L. Barry, President of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod reported that retired pastors who are serving parishes are not eligible to be voting delegates.

The Administration Floor Committee, chaired by Rev. Keith Kohlmeier, was called to the podium.

**Resolution 97-05-01** Kansas District Convention Election Procedure

**Kansas District Convention Election Procedure.**

**WHEREAS**, the District Board of Directors has received recommendations and suggestions for methods to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the election process at District Conventions from the 1994 Elections Committee; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Elections Committee has suggested the election sequence outlined below and that sequence has been reviewed and accepted by Synod's Committee on Constitutional Matters; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the sequence for the conduct of elections in the Kansas District beginning with the Convention of 1997 be as follows:

1. President - Ballot(s).
2. Vice President Ballot(s) (4 regions), Secretary, Nominating Committee Members, Board of Directors:
  - a) One clergy at large,
  - b) One lay person from each region
  - c) Four educators at large.
3. Lay persons for Board of Directors at large (4 positions), Ranking of Vice Presidents, and Ratification of Circuit Counselors.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

**Resolution 97-05-02** Kansas District Convention Standing Rules

**Kansas District Convention Standing Rules.**

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas District Board of Directors has reviewed the procedures of the prior District Conventions and has determined that the adoption of certain standing rules similar to those used at the Conventions of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod would enhance efficient and courteous conduct of convention business; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed rules have been reviewed by the Secretary of the Synod for conformity to the Handbook and Convention Rules of the Synod; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the following Convention Special Standing Rules be adopted and followed at the District Convention beginning with the Convention of 1997:

**\*CONVENTION SPECIAL STANDING RULES**

1. The chair shall see that the agenda is followed as closely as possible.
2. When recognized by the chair, members of the convention shall state their name, whether they are a delegate or an advisory delegate, and the congregation or entity they represent.
3. Delegates may speak and vote, Advisory Delegates may speak, but not vote.
4. A delegate who has spoken on an issue may not at the close of his/her remarks move the previous question.
5. The two-minute rule shall apply for all who speak from the floor and for the committee during debate.
6. The chair can limit debate and also the number of times a person may speak. (The Pro-Con speakers on a question will be observed.)
7. Personal Privilege shall not be abused by using the time to advance the speaker's opinion. It is only to ask a question.
8. The Convention may alter or add to the nominated slates. A floor nomination must be accompanied by written acceptance of nomination from the nominee and a brief biographical description of the nominee.
9. All substitute motions and amendments must be presented in written form to the District Secretary when introduced for Convention action.
10. Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.
11. All portable telephones, computers, or other electronic communication devices are banned from the delegate section.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

President Patten called on the District Secretary, Rev. David Meier, who explained the nominations process for District President. The floor was opened for further nominations. It was moved and seconded to close nominations and vote on the slate presented. **ADOPTED**

The candidates were asked to rise as they were introduced.

Candidates are : Rev. Randall Jahnke Rev. Howard Patten Rev. Warren Schmidt

It was moved and seconded that opportunity be offered to ask questions of the candidates for District President before the balloting.

There was a division of the house Yes - 74 No 171

**ACTION: DECLINED**

Rev. Dale Doerr, chairman of the Elections Committee, explained the voting procedures using the ballot machine. Rev. Doerr led the convention in prayer seeking God's guidance as we vote for leaders in the District's mission. The election for District President was closed after ballots were collected.

The Education Floor Committee, chaired by Rev. Donnie Hofman, was called to the podium.

**Resolution 97-03-01** To Reaffirm Lutheran Catechetical Instruction of Adults

**To Reaffirm Lutheran Catechetical Instruction of Adults**

**WHEREAS**, the Word of God is the only rule and norm of Christian faith and life; and

**WHEREAS**, the historic hymns and liturgy of the Lutheran church are also faithful expositions of God's Word; and

**WHEREAS**, catechetical instruction, including that for adults, should stress the use of the Holy Bible, Luther's Small Catechism and a Lutheran hymnal; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that pastors and congregations of the Kansas District renew their efforts in providing extensive Lutheran catechetical instruction which uses the Holy Scriptures, Luther's Small Catechism, and a Lutheran hymnal with all who desire communicant membership.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

**Resolution 97-03-02** The Family as the Primary Nurturer of the Faith

**The Family as the Primary Nurturer of the Faith**

**WHEREAS**, all of God's people, no matter their present circumstance (married, single, widowed, divorced, empty nest, etc.), are part of a family system; and

**WHEREAS**, the family is the basic unit which God has created for the nurturing of the Christian faith; and

**WHEREAS**, the family needs support from the church in fulfilling that responsibility, and

**WHEREAS**, many congregations have taken the responsibility to nurture the faith away from the family rather than finding ways to partner with the family; be it therefore

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District give thanks to God for the gift of families; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Kansas District make it a top priority to find new ways to partner with the family in the nurturing of the Christian faith; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District through its Family Life Ministry Committee continue to provide resources to congregations in Kansas which will help in partnering with the family as the primary place for the nurturing of the Christian faith; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District sponsor a "Family Gathering" event sometime in the Spring of 1998 or another appropriate time which would be held for congregational leaders and their families; and for families interested in growing in the Christian faith together; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that said event would offer workshops, celebration events, fellowship opportunities, and hands-on experiences that would help congregations and families to partner with each other in nurturing the faith at home; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that congregations and families of the Kansas district be encouraged to take advantage of annual LLL and LWML family retreat; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District urge the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod through its Board for Congregational Services, the Department of Family Ministry and Concordia Publishing House to provide more resources for congregations and families that are user friendly, will help families grow together in the faith, and can be used at home.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

**Resolution 97-03-03** To Thank God for our Kansas Lutheran Schools and to Encourage Those Who Work in Them

**To Thank God for our Kansas Lutheran Schools and to Encourage Those Who Work in Them**

**WHEREAS**, teaching the young in full-time Lutheran Schools has been an integral part of the heritage and life of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod from its 1846 beginning; and

**WHEREAS**, congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod maintain the largest Protestant school system in the United States, enrolling over 220,000 students in over 1,900 preschool, elementary, secondary schools and colleges, served by over 12,000 teachers and professors with a support system of over 6,000 congregations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church has a rich history of Christian education; and

**WHEREAS**, God has placed incredibly talented and dedicated professionals in the Kansas District to lead His children to know their Savior's love; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose and mission of Lutheran Schools is to equip children, youth, young adults and their parents to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ of discipling all nations by Baptizing and teaching, and to this end, prepare them for service and leadership in Lutheran congregations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Director for Educational Services and the Lutheran School Committee have developed methods for Lutheran Schools in Kansas to work together for teacher in-service training for recertification; National Lutheran School and QPA accreditation; and cooperative purchasing; therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District in convention pray for the continued growth and strength of our Kansas Lutheran Schools and for the professionals who work in them; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that we acknowledge and thank God for the assistance of the Executive Director for Educational Services and staff as they continue to pray for, encourage, and support the faithful church professionals of our District; and be it finally,

**RESOLVED**, that the Lutheran congregations in the Kansas District continue to see the unmistakable spiritual value of our schools, to support our Lutheran Schools in every way possible, and then to consider opening new schools throughout our district.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED**

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by changing the word "Protestant" (line 3) to "Non-Roman Catholic".

Amendment: **DECLINED**

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by deleting the words "and QPA accreditation" (line 15).

Amendment: **DECLINED**

Resolution: **ADOPTED**

The Education Floor Committee was thanked for their work.

The Elections Committee presented the convention with the results of the Presidential balloting.  
(274 Ballots were cast, 137 needed for election)

Rev. Randall Jahnke - 75

**Rev. Howard Patten - 150 - ELECTION**

Rev. Warren Schmidt - 40

(Invalid ballots) - 9

**Rev. Howard Patten** was declared **elected** as District President and accepted the applause of the delegates.

District Secretary, Rev. David Meier presented the candidates for Regional Vice Presidents. The floor was opened for further nominations. It was moved and seconded to close nominations. **ACTION: ADOPTED**

Candidates are:

Region I Rev. Roland Boehnke Rev. Theodore Staudacher  
Region II Rev. Robert Schaedel Rev. Michael Brockman Rev. Gene Holtorf  
Region III Rev. John Niermann Rev. Stanley Ostgren  
Region IV Rev. Joel Hiestermann Rev. Paul Kaldahl

The Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Rev. Rodney Fritz, presented the nominees for the office of District Secretary. The floor was opened for further nominations. It was moved and seconded to close nominations. **ACTION: ADOPTED**

Candidates are: Rev. Dr. Paul Johnston Rev. David Meier

The Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Rev. Rodney Fritz, presented the nominees for the office of Board of Directors - Pastor. The floor was opened for further nominations. Rev. Randall Jahnke was nominated from the floor. It was moved and seconded to close nominations. **ACTION: ADOPTED**

Candidates are: Rev. Donnie Hofman, Rev. Randall Jahnke, Rev. Vern Oestmann, Rev. Kevin Vogts

The Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Rev. Rodney Fritz, presented the nominees for the office of Board of Directors - Commissioned Ministers. The floor was opened for further nominations. Terry Bird was nominated from the floor. It was moved and seconded to close nominations. **ACTION: ADOPTED**

Candidates are: Orville Altevogt, Terry Bird, Barb McComas, Milt Brueggeman, Jeremy Pera, Ted Helmer, Mark Schotte, Norma Jacob, Joel Symmank.

The Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Rev. Rodney Fritz, presented the nominees for the office of Board of Directors - Layperson - Region I. The floor was opened for further nominations. It was moved and seconded to close nominations. **ACTION: ADOPTED**

Candidates are: Marilyn Greathouse, Steve Hanschu, Jane Turner, Janet Zima.

The Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Rev. Rodney Fritz, presented the nominees for the office of Board of Directors - Layperson - Region II. The floor was opened for further nominations. It was moved and seconded to close nominations. **ACTION: ADOPTED**

Candidates are: Richard Schotte, Orville Stigge, Wilber Tegtmeier, Art Weiss.

The Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Rev. Rodney Fritz, presented the nominees for the office of Board of Directors - Layperson - Region III. The floor was opened for further nominations. David Ohlde and Don Kubler were nominated from the floor. It was moved and seconded to close nominations. **ACTION: ADOPTED**

Candidates are: Gene Hellman, Dan Grotheer, Don Kubler, Warren E. Meyer, David Ohlde, Todd Wendt

The Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Rev. Rodney Fritz, presented the nominees for the office of Board of Directors - Layperson - Region IV. The floor was opened for further nominations. It was moved and seconded to close nominations. **ACTION: ADOPTED**

Candidates are: Don Hansen, Ralph Unger, Les Walter

The Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Rev. Rodney Fritz, presented the nominees for the office of District Nominating Committee - Pastors. The floor was opened for further nominations. It was moved and seconded to close nominations. **ACTION: ADOPTED**

Candidates are: Rev. Michael Brockman - Reg. II, Rev. Randy Gragg - Reg. III, Rev. Paul Kaldahl - Reg. IV, Rev. Tom Mendenhall - Reg. II, Rev. Ron Oldenettel - Reg. III, Rev. Richard Pfaff - Reg. I.

The Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Rev. Rodney Fritz, presented the nominees for the office of District Nominating Committee - Commissioned Ministers. The floor was opened for further nominations. It was moved and seconded to close nominations. **ACTION: ADOPTED**

Candidates are: Jane Limback and Barbara McComas

The Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Rev. Rodney Fritz, presented the nominees for the office of District Nominating Committee - Laypersons. The floor was opened for further nominations. It was moved and seconded to close nominations. **ACTION: ADOPTED**

Candidates are: Gene Hellman - Reg. III, Jim Jorns - Reg. II, Marvin Meisinger - Reg. II, Art Weiss - Reg. II

The Nominations Committee concluded their report at 5 p.m. and were thanked for their work.

President Patten presented the Presidential address.

Session I adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

**SECOND SESSION**  
(Friday, April 4)

Session II began with song at 7:00 p.m.

Christcare was led by Rev. Roland Boehnke.

Rev. Dale Doerr of the Elections Committee presented the 2nd Ballot with instructions. The elections were closed after the collection of ballots.

The Convention Essayist, President Loren Kramer of the Pacific Southwest District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod was introduced to the assembly and presented the first part of his paper "Church and Ministry".

Rev. Dale Doerr presented the Elections Results (245 ballots cast, 123 needed to elect)

Vice-Presidential Ballot:

Region I

**Rev. Roland Boehnke - 148 - ELECTION**  
Rev. Theodore Staudacher

Region II

**Rev. Robert Schaedel - 158 - ELECTION**  
Rev. Michael Brockman - 5  
Rev. Gene Holtorf - 75

Region III

**Rev. John Niermann - 166 - ELECTION**  
Rev. Stanley Ostgren - 69

Region IV

**Rev. Joel Hiesterman - 155 - ELECTION**  
Rev. Paul Kaldahl - 62

Secretary Ballot:

Rev. Dr. Paul Johnson - 71  
**Rev. David Meier - 147 - ELECTION**

Board of Directors - Pastor

Rev. Donnie Hofman - 45  
Rev. Randall Jahnke - 73

Rev. Vern Oestmann - 75  
Rev. Kevin Vogts - 44

Board of Directors - Commissioned Ministers

Orville Altevogt - 82  
Terry Bird - 69  
Barb McComas - 97  
**Milt Brueggeman - 129 - ELECTION**  
**Jeremy Pera - 124 - ELECTION**

Ted Helmer - 76  
**Mark Schotte - 158 - ELECTION**  
Norma Jacob - 81  
Joel Symmank - 61

Board of Directors - Layperson - Region I

Marilyn Greathouse - 35  
Steve Hanschu - 61

Jane Turner - 91  
Janet Zima - 41

Board of Directors - Layperson - Region II

Richard Schotte - 61  
Orville Stigge - 43

Wilber Tegtmeier - 80  
Art Weiss - 47

Board of Directors - Layperson - Region III

Gene Hellman - 28  
Dan Grotheer - 24  
Don Kubler - 38

Warren E. Meyer - 53  
David Ohlde - 62  
Todd Wendt - 26

Board of Directors - Layperson - Region IV

Don Hanson - 81  
Ralph Unger - 72  
Les Walter - 78



District Nominating Committee - Pastor  
Rev. Michael Brockman - Region II - 82  
Rev. Randy Gragg - Region III - 77  
**Rev. Paul Kaldahl - Region IV - 151 - ELECTION**

Rev. Tom Mendenhall - Region II - 112  
Rev. Ron Oldenmettel - Region III - 78  
Rev. Richard Pfaff - Region I - 117

District Nominating Committee - Commissioned Minister  
**Jane Limback - 131 - ELECTION**  
Barbara McComas - 92

District Nominating Committee - Laypersons  
**Gene Hellman - Region 3 - 113 - ELECTION**

(Declared elected because only two regions were represented on the ballot and this nominee was the only person from his region.)

Jim Jorns - Region 2 - 114  
Marvin Meisinger - Region 2 - 77  
Art Weiss - Region 2 - 105

Rev. Dale Doerr of the Elections Committee presented the 3rd Ballot with instructions. The elections were closed after the collection of ballots.

The Stewardship Floor Committee, chaired by Rev. Richard Boyer, was called to the podium.

**Resolution 97-04-01** To Accept the Gift of a Leadership Training Center and Office Building

**To Accept the Gift of a Leadership Training Center and Office Building**

**WHEREAS**, Our Heavenly Father has moved the hearts of Mr. John Rule and Mrs. Dorothy Rule of San Antonio, Texas, to grant and convey to The Kansas District an office building at 1000 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, Kansas; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Rule has requested that a plaque be installed in the building recognizing his wife, Dorothy Rule; and,

**WHEREAS**, the gift of this building will enable The Kansas District to implement plans for lay leadership training, increase the efficiency of its office operations, and provide space for workshops and meetings through which the District can more effectively equip, encourage and empower congregations in their mission vision and Christ-care ministry; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District express its joyous thanks to God for leading Mr. and Mrs. John Rule to make this gift to the District; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the District President express the written thanks of the District to John and Dorothy Rule for their generosity and love of the Lord expressed through this gift; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a plaque be installed in the building bearing the following wording:

"Dorothy Rule Education Center  
Gratefully Dedicated  
To the Glory of God  
And the Service of All People  
The Kansas District  
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
Psalm 67:1-2

(Psalm 67:1-2 reads as follows: 1 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, 2 that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.) and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of The Kansas District is instructed to proceed with such architectural studies and plans as are needed to develop the building at 1000 SW 10th Avenue as the Kansas District Leadership Training Center and office building and the disposition or future use of the present office building at 2318 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED**

A Substitute Resolution was presented. President Patten invoked the Behnken Rule which states that the convention shall first decide by majority vote without debate whether or not to consider the substitute. If the decision is not favorable, the original motion is again before the house.

**Division of the House** Substitute motion was defeated 128 to 98

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by striking the third resolve and name the plaque at a later time.

It was moved and seconded to amend the amendment by naming the building the "CFW Walther Center for Ministry."

Amendment: **DECLINED**

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. **ACTION: ADOPTED**

Session II ended with the Introit devotions.

**SESSION THREE**

(Saturday, April 5)

Session III began with Christ care.

Rev. Dale Doerr presented the Elections Results (250 ballots cast, 126 needed to elect)

Board of Directors - Pastor

Rev. Donnie Hofman - 54

Rev. Randall Jahnke - 108

Rev. Vern Oestmann - 88

Board of Directors - Commissioned Ministers

Orville Altevogt - 57

Terry Bird - 37

Barb McComas - 62

Ted Helmer - 39

Norma Jacob - 43

Board of Directors - Layperson - Region I

Steve Hanschu - 76

Jane Turner - 113

Janet Zima - 52

Board of Directors - Layperson - Region II

Richard Schotte - 89

Wilber Tegtmeier - 95

Art Weiss - 54

Board of Directors - Layperson - Region III

Gene Hellman - 41

Don Kubler - 42

Warren E. Meyer - 62

David Ohlde - 76

Todd Wendt - 15

Board of Directors - Layperson - Region IV

**Don Hanson - 127 - ELECTION**

Les Walter - 111

District Nominating Committee - Pastor

Rev. Michael Brockman - Region II - 97

**Rev. Tom Mendenhall - Region II - 137 - ELECTION**

Rev. Ron Oldenettel - Region III - 82

**Rev. Richard Pfaff - Region I - 133 - ELECTION**



District Nominating Committee - Layperson  
Jim Jorns - Region II - 33  
Art Weiss - Region II - 20

Rev. Dale Doerr of the Elections Committee presented the 4th Ballot with instructions. The elections were closed after the collection of ballots.

The District Secretary, Rev. David Meier presented the Slate of Candidates - Circuit Counselor:

Circuit 1 - Rev. Lawrence Boye, Hiawatha  
Circuit 2 - Rev. Michael May, Kansas City  
Circuit 3 - Rev. Edward Trost, Overland Park  
Circuit 4 - Rev. Norbert Tegtmeier, Emporia  
Circuit 5 - Rev. Thomas Brooks, Chanute  
Circuit 6 - Rev. John Emslie, Topeka  
Circuit 7 - Rev. David Gruener, Linn  
Circuit 8 - Rev. Marvin Barz, Junction City  
Circuit 9 - Rev. John Ryding, Hillsboro  
Circuit 10 - Rev. Keith Kohlmeier, Wichita  
Circuit 11 - Rev. Mark Boxman, Arkansas City  
Circuit 12 - Rev. Don Adolf, Haven  
Circuit 13 - Rev. Gary Bender, Ellsworth  
Circuit 14 - Rev. Henry Niermann, Pratt  
Circuit 15 - Rev. Allen Hoger, Atwood  
Circuit 16 - Rev. Robert Roberts, Lakin

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

Deliberation on Resolution 97-04-01 to accept the gift of a Leadership Training Center and office building was resumed.

The amendment to strike the third resolve and name the plaque at a later time was withdrawn by unanimous consent.

It was moved and seconded to Call the question.

**ACTION: ADOPTED**

**Resolution 97-04-01 was APPROVED**

The Stewardship Floor Committee, chaired by Rev. Richard Boyer, was again called to the podium.

Rev. Dale Doerr presented the Elections Results (239 ballots cast; 120 needed to elect)

Board of Directors - Pastor

Rev. Randall Jahnke - 119

**Rev. Vern Oestmann - 120 - ELECTION**

Board of Directors - Commissioned Ministers

Orville Altevogt - 62

Barb McComas - 76

Ted Helmer - 44

Norma Jacob - 54

Board of Directors - Layperson - Region I

Steve Hanschu - 94

**Jane Turner - 138 - ELECTION**

Board of Directors - Layperson - Region II

Richard Schotte - 112

**Wilber Tegtmeier - 116 - ELECTION \*majority of votes cast for this office**

Board of Directors - Layperson - Region III  
Gene Hellman - 34  
Don Kubler - 45  
Warren E. Meyer - 67  
David Ohlde - 90

District Nominating Committee - Layperson  
**Jim Jorns - Region II - 133 - ELECTION**  
Art Weiss - Region II - 97

Rev. Dale Doerr of the Elections Committee presented the 5th Ballot with instructions. The elections were closed after the collection of ballots.

Essayist Rev. Loren Kramer continued his presentation.

Rev. Dale Doerr presented the Elections Results (247 ballots cast; 124 needed to elect)

Board of Directors - Commissioned Ministers  
Orville Altevogt - 88  
Barb McComas - 68  
Norma Jacob - 64

Board of Directors - Layperson - Region III  
Don Kubler - 53  
Warren E. Meyer - 79  
David Ohlde - 109

Rev. Dale Doerr of the Elections Committee presented the 6th Ballot with instructions. The elections were closed after the collection of ballots.

Rev. Dr. A. L. Barry, President of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod gave the Synodical report.

Rev. Dale Doerr presented the Elections Results (236 ballots cast; 119 needed to elect)

Board of Directors - Commissioned Ministers  
Orville Altevogt - 102  
**Barb McComas - 131 - ELECTION**

Board of Directors - Layperson - Region III  
Warren E. Meyer - 87  
**David Ohlde - 149 - ELECTION**

Rev. Dale Doerr of the Elections Committee presented the 7th Ballot with instructions concerning the ballot for Board of Directors - Laypersons At Large. The elections were closed after the collection of ballots.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE concluded Session III.

Recessed at 11:45 FOR LUNCH

**SESSION FOUR**  
(Saturday, April 5)

Reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

Session IV began with THE COLLECT.

The Mission Floor Committee, chaired by Rev. Richard Pfaff, was called to the podium.

**Resolution 97-01-01A** Kansas Mission Partnership with LCMS World Mission for Guinea International Field

## **Kansas Mission Partnership with LCMS World Mission for Guinea International Field**

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas District Board of Directors (BOD) on April 27, 1996, was invited by LCMS World Mission to enter into a partnership to support the mission in Guinea, West Africa entered by LCMS in 1995; and

**WHEREAS**, the BOD responded favorably to this request and asked the Mission Board of the Kansas District to pursue the details; and

**WHEREAS**, a group of lay, professional and staff members of the Kansas District met with Steve Hughey, Director of Mission Partnership and Involvement of LCMS World Mission, in Wichita, KS on June 14-15, 1996, and gave thought and support to what such a partnership would entail; and,

**WHEREAS**, the BOD in July, 1996, directed the Mission Board of the Kansas District to seek to raise \$65,000 in funds to provide support for the Guinea, West Africa field already entered in 1996 even though a full partnership could not be entered without adoption by the April, 1997, Kansas District Convention; and

**WHEREAS**, Rev. Al Burroughs and others, acting on behalf of the Mission Board of the Kansas District, had raised over \$50,000 from individual leadership gifts for the support of Guinea by January 17, 1997; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District Board of Directors be authorized by the 1997 District Convention to enter into a "Gospel Outreach Mission Partnership" with LCMS World Mission, whose provisions in summary are:

1. Begin May 1, 1997;
2. Commit the Kansas District to provide a minimum of \$50,000 per year for the work in Guinea;
3. Continue for seven years (until May 1, 2004), when the partnership could be renewed by agreement of LCMS World Mission and the Kansas District meeting in convention;
4. Establish a Guinea Partnership Task Force and name a chairman to foster support and monitor the partnership in Kansas, including an annual review with LCMS World Mission.

A presentation on the new concepts of mission work was given by Rev. Steve Hughey, Director for Mission Partnership and Involvement, Board for Mission Services, Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

Jonathan Oetting, who will be going to Guinea, West Africa, as a missionary, gave a presentation to the convention.

### **ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

President Patten noted he was left speechless, to which the Convention responded with applause. President Patten invited the convention to rise and sing "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow".

The Convention received a telephone call from Tim Heiney, Missionary in Guinea, West Africa.

**Resolution 97-01-02 To Continue District Plan of "Mission Vision Giving"**  
(This resolution covers the concerns raised in Overtures 97-01-02 and 97-04-02)

#### **To Continue District Plan of "Mission Vision Giving"**

**WHEREAS**, the "Mission Vision Giving" plan adopted by the 1994 Kansas District Convention has been a great blessing to the Kansas District and has served its purpose, i.e., to develop giving that would underwrite new mission initiatives in the Kansas District over-and-above regular congregational Synod/District mission offerings; and

**WHEREAS**, \$93,577 were received during the past triennium to support Mission Vision Giving projects, namely inner city ministries in Kansas City, Kansas (e.g., support for ministry at Faith, DCE intern, Laura Baack, at St. Lake; urban vicar Kenneth Netling serving all three inner city parishes; and some support for Urban Ministry Coordinator, Deaconess Kathy Herzberg, working with the Lutheran Mission Association of Greater Kansas City) as well as Haskell Indian Nations University; and

**WHEREAS**, Planned Giving Counselor Garry Niehoff has received deferred giving commitments of \$418,386 for Mission Vision Giving in the future; and

**WHEREAS**, there are rural congregations facing unique challenges in mission and ministry who have not benefitted from the Mission Vision Giving funds in the past triennium, and

**WHEREAS**, a Mission Development Counselor will be deployed in Kansas by LCMS World Mission to raise mission awareness of specific Synod and District projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the term "Mission Vision Giving" is a wide-ranging term that has the potential to lift the sights of all members of the Kansas District and could serve as the umbrella under which all dedicated mission funds for District projects could be gathered; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors appoint a Mission Vision Giving Task Force (five members, at least one from each region) (1) to receive mission proposals and to suggest mission projects (e.g. ethnic, rural, special-need, urban, et.al.) for adoption as opportunities above and beyond District budget, (2) to inform the Mission Development Counselor of projects for designated giving, and (3) to track monies received and to distribute any undesignated funds; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Mission supervise and receive regular reports of the Mission Vision Giving Task Force and report its work to the next district convention.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED**

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by striking lines 12 & 13 and strike the word "rural" in line 21.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, DECLINED**

Resolution was **ADOPTED**

The Missions Floor Committee was thanked for their work.

Richard Henningfield, Mission Development Director of the LCMS Foundation spoke about the Mission Development Counselor position.

Commissioning of Mission Development Counselor Marvin Kohlmeier.

Rev. Dale Doerr presented the Elections Results (248 ballots cast; 124 needed to elect; those with less than 37(15% of votes) are dropped for the next ballot)

Board of Directors - Layperson At Large

Edwin Carlson - 24  
Art Fabrisius - 26  
Marilyn Greathouse - 72  
Dan Grotheer - 20  
Steve Hanschu - 63  
George Harrison - 17  
Gene Hellman - 59  
John Hiesterman - 50  
Don Kubler - 53  
Marvin Meisinger - 44  
Warren E. Meyer - 74

Tom Nelson - 20  
Dwayne Peaslee - 16  
Richard Schotte - 73  
Phil Swain - 14  
Orville Stigge - 59  
Ralph Unger - 59  
Les Walter - 77  
Art Weiss - 59  
Todd Wendt - 38  
Janet Zima - 76

Rev. Dale Doerr of the Elections Committee presented the 8th Ballot with instructions and the ballot for the ranking of Regional Vice Presidents. The elections were closed after the collection of ballots.

THE LESSONS

It was moved and seconded to waive the reading of the "Whereas" on all future resolutions, except when deemed necessary by Committee Chairpersons.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

Administration Floor Committee, chaired by Rev. Keith Kohlmeier, was called to the podium.

**Resolution 97-05-03** Revision of District Handbook and Guidelines

**Revision of District Handbook and Guidelines**

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas District Handbook has followed a format presenting the District Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Position Descriptions of Individuals, Boards, Committees and Commissions, Policies and Procedures of the District; and,

**WHEREAS**, the resulting book of nearly 200 pages requires constant updating following each Synodical and District Convention and with each change of personnel and/or committee structure; and,

**WHEREAS**, some policies and procedures, such as District insurance guidelines, apply only to the Board of Directors and staff and are not relevant to the work of congregations; and,

**WHEREAS**, a revised handbook supported by other documents can be more efficient to maintain and more cost effective to print and distribute; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District Board of Directors recommend that the proposed handbook presented as a part of the 1997 Convention Workbook be commended to the Convention for referral to a Bylaws and Handbook Committee and congregations for study; that the Committee review and develop the handbook and recommend it to the Board of Directors for referral to The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Committee on Constitutional Matters for review and approval and that it finally be returned to the District Convention in the year 2000 for approval.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

**Resolution 97-05-04A** To Study the Organization, Structure and Staffing of the Kansas District

**To Study the Organization, Structure and Staffing of The Kansas District**

**WHEREAS**, overtures numbered 97-05-04 through 97-05-10 and Overture 97-05-20 have been presented to the Floor Committee on Administration (Committee No. 5), all of which propose studies of or changes to organization, staffing, structure and salaries of the Kansas District; and,

**WHEREAS**, the changes in demographics of Kansas, membership in the church and the impact of an "unchurched" society, and technology which may enhance future ministry, demand that the Kansas District be organized and staffed to most effectively equip, empower and encourage congregations in their mission vision and Christ-care ministry; and,

**WHEREAS**, financial resources available to the District have increased, but not at the rate needed to underwrite all of the desirable work; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Convention respectfully decline Overtures 97-05-04, 97-05-05, 97-05-06, 97-05-07, 97-05-08, 97-05-09, 97-05-10, and 97-05-20; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Convention instruct the Board of Directors to appoint a task force to examine the operation of the Kansas District, including, but not limited to:

- a. organization
- b. structure
- c. staffing
- d. District staff compensation
- e. effective term limits for elected District officers; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this task force present periodic reports of its deliberations to the congregations of the District and that the final report and recommendation be provided to the Board of Directors and to the congregations no later than December 31, 1998 for study and comment; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that such changes as will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the District in support of congregations be proposed to the District Convention in the year 2000

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED**

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by adding the following on line 12, "of representatives from the various regions, one pastor and one layperson from each region".

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

The amended resolution was **ADOPTED**.

**Resolution 97-05-11A** Regarding the Keeping of Correspondence Files by the Kansas District

**Regarding the Keeping of Correspondence Files by the Kansas District**

**WHEREAS**, the policies of the LCMS require that all written correspondence received by the Synod or its Districts become the property of the Synod and its Districts, and only such files are maintained by the Kansas District (LCMS); and

**WHEREAS**, these files are maintained as "confidential," not "secret," and are available to the principals of the correspondence; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that we respectfully decline Overture 97-05-11.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

**Resolution 97-05-12A** Regarding Transfer of La Santa Cruz Property

**Regarding Transfer of La Sante Cruz Property**

**WHEREAS**, Rev. John Miller, pastor of La Santa Cruz congregation of Garden City has indicated that transfer of the property would produce a hardship on the congregation at this time; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that Overture 97-05-12 be respectfully declined.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

**Resolution 97-05-14A** Full Financial Disclosure for all Kansas District Finances To All Kansas District Congregations or Members

**Full Financial Disclosure for all Kansas District Finances  
To All Kansas District Congregations or Members**

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas District of the LC-MS is a not-for-profit corporation governed by the laws of the State of Kansas, and the constitution and bylaws of the Kansas District; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas District Convention is the legislative body which ultimately establishes policies; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas District has the ethical obligation to make all financial records available to any member of the Kansas District or professional church worker subject to limitations consistent with paragraph 3.72 of the Synodical handbook; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District in convention request that all financial records be available to any member or professional church worker of the Kansas District; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that these records be available at an "at cost" basis; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that these records be available for personal information and not for further publication.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED**

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by adding the phrase "of a Kansas District Congregation" on line 9.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

It was moved and seconded to amend the amended resolution by striking the last resolve, "; and be it further **RESOLVED**, that these records be available for personal information and not for further publication."

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

The amended resolution was **ADOPTED**.

**Resolution 97-05-18 To Encourage Appointment of Congregational LCEF Representatives**

**To Encourage Appointment of Congregational LCEF Representatives**

**WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) provides opportunity to congregations and their members to make funds available in support of the Great Commission through The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; and,

**WHEREAS**, the experience of LCEF Districts has shown that appointment of a congregational representative in each congregation to provide investment information and assistance to members of the congregation increases participation and support; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that each congregation of The Kansas District is encouraged to appoint a congregational LCEF Representative by July 15, 1997 and to report the name and address of the representative to the District LCEF Office.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

**Resolution 97-05-19A To Encourage Supporting Investments in LCEF**

**To Encourage Supporting Investments in LCEF**

**WHEREAS**, funding for capital needs of most Kansas Congregations is often borrowed from The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF); and,

**WHEREAS**, capital funding requirements for such matters as major building repairs, property acquisitions, housing purchases and other needs often occur on very short notice; and,

**WHEREAS**, policies of the LCEF require that 35% of the amount to be borrowed be placed with the LCEF as supporting investments which are to be maintained during the life of the loan, such supporting investments may come from congregation members, the congregation itself or members of any LC-MS congregation; and,

**WHEREAS**, supporting investments equal to 50%, 75% or 100% of the amount borrowed generate a rebate of a portion of the loan interest; and,

**WHEREAS**, attaining and maintaining supporting investments of 50% of the amount borrowed or more can generate significant year end rebates; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District encourages its congregations to maintain a supporting investment level of at least \$35,000 to qualify on short notice for loans of up to \$100,000; and, be it finally,

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District encourage congregations which have or plan LCEF loans attain and maintain a level of at least 50% of the amount borrowed so that they will qualify for the annual rebate.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

**Resolution 97-05-22 Retired Pastor's Eligibility to Vote**



### **Retired Pastor's Eligibility to Vote**

**WHEREAS**, the Holy Scriptures have stated that Christ has given to His Church gifts in the form of Pastors and Teachers (Eph. 4:11-14); and

**WHEREAS**, the Lutheran Confessions state that a person is "regularly called" when a congregation calls him to administer Word and the Sacraments among them; and

**WHEREAS**, pastors who are retired according to the Synodical Retirement and Welfare Plan still are called to small congregations who often cannot afford the salary of a non-retired pastor; and

**WHEREAS**, these pastors are accredited, ordained, and called by congregations to be their pastor; and

**WHEREAS**, the ruling which forbids each pastor delegate status disenfranchises smaller congregations of a vote just because of their financial abilities and the age of their pastor; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District petition the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at its next convention to rescind the regulation which now prohibits these pastors from voting; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this be among the first order of business at the 1998 Synodical convention so that congregations and pastors not be disenfranchised of their right of a vote.

#### **ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

**Resolution 97-05-21** To Decline Certain Overtures

#### **To Decline Certain Overtures**

**WHEREAS**, after opportunity for input through the open hearing and due consideration, the Floor Committee on Administration has considered all overtures directed to our attention; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Floor Committee, trusting the leading of our God, have deemed that certain overtures were not appropriate for consideration by the convention body at this time; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that we respectfully decline overtures:  
97-05-13, 97-05-15, 97-05-16, 97-05-17

#### **ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED**

It was moved and seconded to amend this resolution by separating 97-05-13 from Resolution 97-05-21

#### **ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

The amended resolution was **ADOPTED**

**Resolution 97-05-13** To Allow Freedom of Choice in Retirement Plans

#### **To Allow Freedom of Choice in Retirement Plans**

**WHEREAS**, when the Concordia Retirement Plan was implemented, there were few other options for retirement planning for pastors and teachers; and,

**WHEREAS**, since that time the tax code has been amended to provide for Tax Sheltered Annuities specifically for pastors and teachers; and,

**WHEREAS**, some pastors and teachers of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod may consider a Tax Sheltered Annuity or some other instrument to be more advantageous for them personally than participation in the Concordia Retirement Plan; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Concordia Retirement Plan has two rules which may at times compel pastors and teachers to participate in this plan against their wishes, namely: 1) All full-time employees of a congregation or other organization participating in the Concordia Retirement Plan must be included in the plan; and, 2) A congregation or other organization withdrawing from the Concordia Retirement Plan cannot re-enter the plan for three years; and,

**WHEREAS**, these two rules penalize pastors and teachers who choose not to participate in the Concordia Retirement Plan by severely limiting and complicating their relocation within the Synod; and,

**WHEREAS**, there would seem to be no fiduciary grounds for these rules, since benefits to a particular individual from the Concordia Retirement Plan are based on contributions to the plan on that individual's behalf, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District in convention petition the Board of Managers of the Worker benefit Plans to rescind these two rules, and thereby not compel pastors and teachers to participate in the Concordia Retirement Plan nor penalize them if they wish to make provision for their retirement by other means.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

Rev. Dale Doerr presented the Elections Results (248 ballots cast, 124 needed to elect, those with less than 37 (15% of votes) are dropped for the next ballot)

The results of the Vice-President Ranking Ballot:

- Rev. Roland Boehnke - First Vice-President
- Rev. Jack Niermann - Second Vice-President
- Rev. Robert Schaedel - Third Vice-President
- Rev. Joel Hiesterman - Fourth Vice-President

Board of Directors - Layperson At Large

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Marilyn Greathouse - 79 | Richard Schotte - 78 |
| Steve Hanschu - 74      | Orville Stigge - 61  |
| Gene Hellman - 59       | Ralph Unger - 61     |
| John Hiesterman - 52    | Les Walter - 84      |
| Don Kubler - 47         | Art Weiss - 66       |
| Marvin Meisinger - 44   | Todd Wendt - 23      |
| Warren E. Meyer - 76    | Janet Zima - 90      |

Rev. Dale Doerr of the Elections Committee presented the 9th Ballot with instructions. The elections were closed after the collection of ballots.

**Resolution 97-04-03** To Establish a Permanent Kansas District Commission on Lay Ministry

**To Establish a Permanent Kansas District Commission on Lay Ministry**

**Preamble:** The Commission on Lay Ministry has studied the entire scope of Lay Ministry, and has recommended that its purpose and work become a permanent part of the ministry of service the Kansas District provides congregations.

**Resolved:** That the Kansas District Convention establish a permanent Kansas District Commission on Lay Ministry. The Commission would advise the President on applicants to serve as Lay Ministers/Deacons and Lay Ministers/Readers for his annual appointment. The Commission also would develop criteria for service in Kansas congregations and develop a course of study appropriate to the area of service that would lead to becoming "credentialed" by the President of the Kansas District.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED**

Discussion of the resolution was suspended because of schedule.

THE SECOND LESSON

Dr. Orville Walz, President of Concordia College, Seward, Nebraska, spoke on behalf of the Concordia University System

Rev. Al Burroughs, spoke on behalf of the Concordia Seminaries.

Mr. Merle Lietz, 150th Anniversary of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Announcements - Rev. Gary Rueter, Executive Director of Missions and Stewardship gave details of the Guinea Partnership.

#### THE HOLY GOSPEL

Rev. Dale Doerr presented the Elections Results (231 ballots cast; 116 needed to elect)

Board of Directors - Layperson At Large

Marilyn Greathouse - 98  
Steve Hanschu - 76  
Gene Hellman - 56  
John Hiesterman - 37  
Don Kubler - 35  
Marvin Meisinger - 40  
Warren E. Meyer - 75

Richard Schotte - 88  
Orville Stigge - 54  
Ralph Unger - 57  
Les Walter - 107  
Art Weiss - 62  
Janet Zima - 90

Rev. Dale Doerr of the Elections Committee presented the 10th Ballot with instructions. The elections were closed after the collection of ballots.

Session IV recessed at 5:30 p.m.

#### **SESSION FIVE** (Saturday, April 5)

Session V was a magnificent choral vespers noting the 150th Anniversary of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. It was led by the Master Arts Chorale, conducted by John Leavitt, and held at St. John's Lutheran Church. Rev. Dr. A.L. Barry was the preacher.

#### **SESSION SIX** (Sunday, April 6)

Session VI opened at 8:00 a.m. (Daylight Savings Time) by singing "Brothers and Sisters in Christ!"

#### THE CREED

Rev. Dr. A. L. Barry, President of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod led a Question and Answer session.

Rev. Dale Doerr presented the Elections Results (206 ballots cast; 104 needed to elect)

Board of Directors - Layperson At Large

Marilyn Greathouse - 100  
Steve Hanschu - 71  
Gene Hellman - 37  
John Hiesterman - 26  
Marvin Meisinger - 23  
Warren E. Meyer - 64

**Richard Schotte - 109 - ELECTION**  
Orville Stigge - 46  
Ralph Unger - 40  
**Les Walter - 133 - ELECTION**  
Art Weiss - 42  
Janet Zima - 91

Rev. Dale Doerr of the Elections Committee presented the 11th Ballot with instructions. The elections were closed after the collection of ballots.

The Question and Answer session with Dr. A.L. Barry continued.

Rev. Dale Doerr presented the Elections Results (177 ballots cast; 89 needed to elect)

Board of Directors - Layperson At Large

Marilyn Greathouse - 76	Orville Stigge - 35
Steve Hanschu - 32	Ralph Unger - 38
Gene Hellman - 26	Art Weiss - 29
Warren E. Meyer - 39	Janet Zima - 61

Rev. Dale Doerr of the Elections Committee presented the 11th Ballot with instructions. The elections were closed after the collection of ballots.

Rev. Michael May was elected by the Circuit Counselors to be Chairman of the Circuit Counselors and will serve on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Dale Doerr presented the Elections Results (177 ballots cast; 89 needed to elect)

Board of Directors - Layperson At Large

Marilyn Greathouse - 69	Ralph Unger - 41
Steve Hanschu - 32	Art Weiss - 34
Warren E. Meyer - 41	Janet Zima - 55
Orville Stigge - 41	

Rev. Dale Doerr of the Elections Committee presented the 12th Ballot with instructions. The elections were closed after the collection of ballots.

Rev. Darrel Boettcher, speaking for the Stewardship Floor Committee asked that Resolution 97-04-03 be referred to a later time.

Rev. Vern Oestmann, chairman of the Resolutions Floor Committee was called to the podium.

**Resolution 97-06-02A** To Refer to Previous Synodical Action

**To Refer to Previous Synodical Action**

**Rationale:**

Over the years the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in convention has spoken to many issues. At times it has found it necessary to restate its position because of misunderstanding or because there was an expressed desire to change the stated position of the Synod.

At this convention of the Kansas District convened April 4-6, 1997 in Topeka, Kansas a number of issues have been presented through overtures to which the Synod, in convention, has previously spoken; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that petitioners offering the following overtures be referred to previous convention action as indicated:

<b>Resolution #</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Previous Action</b>
97-06-02, 03, 04, 05	Communion	Indianapolis, 1986 3-08 St. Louis, 1995 3-08
97-06-08, 10	Pastoral Office Limited to Males Only	St. Louis, 1995 3-17
97-06-10	Recognize Importance of Service of Females	Denver 1969 St. Louis, 1995
97-06-14	Church Growth	St. Louis, 1995 3-09
97-06-17	Homosexual Behavior	St. Louis, 1995 3-19

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED**

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by adding a final resolve "and be it further resolved that we reaffirm these actions.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

The amended resolution was **ADOPTED**

**Resolution 97-06-12A** Worship Convocation

**Worship Convocation**

**WHEREAS**, worship is a vital element in the life of the Church; and

**WHEREAS**, our Synod continues to study various issues and topics pertaining to worship (i.e. the role and service of women in public worship, communion practices, and varieties and forms of orders and liturgies); and

**WHEREAS**, the Synod's Commission on Worship is sponsoring "Real Life Worship Conferences" throughout the Synod; be it

**RESOLVED**, that the convention respectfully decline Overtures: 97-06-09, 97-06-12, 97-06-13, 97-06-18, and 97-06-19; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District in convention direct and support the appropriate District leadership to call a convocation on worship during the next triennium to study and discuss the worship life within congregations.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED**

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by adding the following after the word leadership on line 10, "to contact the Rev. Paul Grime (Executive Director of the Commission on Worship) to request a "Real Life Worship Conference" to be held in Topeka by the year 1998 and following this conference"

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by striking the words "and 97-06-09" from line 8.

**ACTION: DECLINED**

The amended resolution was **ADOPTED**.

**Resolution 97-06-15A** To Encourage Professional Study Groups

**To Encourage Professional Study Groups**

**WHEREAS**, as the Apostle Paul commended the Berean on account of the fact that "they received the Word with all eagerness" and because they were "examining the Scriptures daily," and

**WHEREAS**, the Synodical Handbook states (5.67 b and c): "Ordained and commissioned ministers are also encouraged to organize smaller conferences in addition to their official conferences" and "inter synodical conferences for the study of theology are desirable and are encouraged on a regular basis," and

**WHEREAS**, groups have organized within the Synod and in the Kansas District to study Scripture and the confessions; be it

**RESOLVED**, that the convention respectfully decline Overtures: 97-06-15 and 97-06-16; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District encourage its professional workers to form groups for the study of Scripture and the Confessions.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

**Resolution 97-06-20** Opportunities to Study Issues

### Opportunities to Study Issues

**WHEREAS**, God loves the whole world to send Jesus as the Suffering Servant who died on the cross to take the sin of the whole world upon himself and who, through his resurrection from the grave offers life eternal to all who believe in him; and

**WHEREAS**, God has gathered people together by the power of the Holy Spirit to be in mission to proclaim the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ to all the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Church is the gathering of God's people around Word and Sacrament for the purpose of pronouncing forgiveness and sharing God's love with one another and with all peoples; and

**WHEREAS**, the Holy Spirit continues to move God's people through Word and Sacrament to be in ministry as Jesus Christ was in ministry to serve; and

**WHEREAS**, the Book of Concord is our confession of these scriptural principals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Constitution states that "no resolution of the Synod imposing anything upon the individual congregation is of binding force if it is not in accordance with the Word of God or if it appears to be inexpedient as far as the condition of a congregation is concerned" (Article VII Relation of the Synod to its Members); therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District in convention affirm our scriptural and confessional stance that encourages and supports the work of God's people and congregations to proclaim the Gospel, administer the sacraments; and to care for people; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District hold high the role of God's people in the priesthood of all believers in every vocation as God directs; and finally be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District provide opportunities to study issues that come before the church while remaining "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3 RSV).

#### **ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED**

It was moved and seconded to table this resolution.

#### **ACTION: DECLINED**

The resolution was **ADOPTED**.

#### **Resolution 97-06-21 To Decline Certain Overtures**

##### **To Decline Certain Overtures**

**WHEREAS**, after opportunity for input through the open hearing and due consideration, the Floor Committee on Resolutions has considered all overtures directed to our attention; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Floor Committee, trusting the leading of our God, have deemed that certain overtures were not appropriate for consideration by the convention body at this time; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that we respectfully decline overtures:

97-06-01, 97-06-06, 97-06-07, 97-06-11

#### **ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

Rev. Darrel Boettcher, speaking for the Stewardship Floor Committee presented an amended Resolution 97-04-03

#### **Resolution 97-04-03(Amended) To Establish a Permanent Kansas District Commission on Lay Ministry**

**To Establish a Permanent Kansas District Commission on Lay Ministry**

**PREAMBLE:** The Commission on Lay Ministry has studied the entire scope of Lay Ministry, and has recommended that its purpose and work become a permanent part of the ministry of service the Kansas District provides congregations.

**RESOLVED:** That the Kansas District Convention establish a permanent Kansas District Commission on Lay Ministry, and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the commission develop a program of lay leadership training utilizing the resources of the Synod and the District to train lay leaders for service in their own congregations. The courses offered would be in evangelism, business administration, caring, education and others as requested. The lay training would be offered as a service to congregations that requested the training for their members, and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the Commission consult with the Secretary of the Synod and the Board for Higher Education in the development of the policies and guidelines in the use of laymen in public worship and present them to the Kansas District Board of Directors for final approval and implementation and that a report be made to all congregations on this important matter.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED**

It was moved and seconded to amend this resolution by striking the words "in the use of laymen in public worship" and insert the words "concerning lay ministry" and adding to the final resolve the words "with an opportunity to respond."

**ACTION: ADOPTED**

It was moved and seconded to amend the amended resolution by striking the words "Kansas District Board of Directors" and insert the words "Kansas District Convention in the year 2000"

**ACTION: DECLINED**

The amended resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Rev. Dale Doerr presented the Elections Results (168 ballots cast; 84 needed to elect)

Board of Directors - Layperson At Large

**Marilyn Greathouse - 89 - ELECTION**

Warren E. Meyer - 40

Orville Stigge - 47

Ralph Unger - 41

Art Weiss - 27

Janet Zima - 71

Rev. Dale Doerr of the Elections Committee presented the 14th Ballot with instructions. The elections were closed after the collection of ballots.

Lutheran Social Service - Bernice Karstensen reported on the new endeavors of Lutheran Social Service, which include having the contract from Kansas SRS to handle all adoptions in Kansas.

St. John's College Alumni Association - Donna Dean told how the Association has grown.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League - Velma Bass described the work of the LWML and noted the "God's Gracious Gift Fund" program.

Rev. Dale Doerr presented the Elections Results (192 ballots cast; 97 needed to elect)

Board of Directors - Layperson At Large

Warren E. Meyer - 33

Orville Stigge - 38

Ralph Unger - 27

Janet Zima - 83



Rev. Dale Doerr of the Elections Committee presented the 15th Ballot with instructions. The elections were closed after the collection of ballots.

The support staff of the Kansas District was thanked with a round of applause from the convention.

Lutheran Laymen's League/ Lutheran Hour Ministries - Bud Hestermann, on behalf of the LLL thanked all the pastors for their work.

Rev. Dale Doerr presented the Elections Results (141 ballots cast; 71 needed to elect)

Board of Directors - Layperson At Large

Warren E. Meyer - 27

Orville Stigge - 42

**Janet Zima - 72 - ELECTION**

Elections are completed. (This announcement was greeted with applause.) The Elections Committee thanked for their work.

Concordia, Seward, A Cappella Choir presented the pre-communion music.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

LCMS President Rev. Dr. A.L. Barry installed Rev. Howard Patten as Kansas District President.

Kansas District President Rev. Howard Patten installed the newly elected officers of the Kansas District.

Caring Ministry Floor Committee, chaired by Rev. Paul Kaidahl, was called to the podium.

**Resolution 97-02-01A To Expand Housing Ministries**

**To Expand Housing Ministries**

**WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Habitat for Humanity International have demonstrated commitments to low-cost housing in response to our Lord's wish that His people might be servants, particularly to those in need;

**WHEREAS**, We see this life of service most clearly in Jesus our Lord, who "came not to be served but to serve, and who gave His life as a ransom for many;"

**WHEREAS**, Habitat for Humanity is a Christian organization, founded on Jesus as Lord;

**WHEREAS**, a covenant for partnership in ministry between Habitat for Humanity International and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod would further the mission of Housing Ministry within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for "a growing community of Christ-centered LCMS Lutherans, empowered for social justice, and living responsibly in affordable housing in healthy, revitalized neighborhoods;" therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

1. Recognize the third Sunday in September as the International Day of Prayer and Action for Human Habitat.
2. Encourage congregations to participate with the local Habitat affiliate in the production of affordable housing;
3. Encourage LCMS congregations and schools to support Global Village Work Camps in other countries in cooperation with Habitat;
4. Encourage LCMS members to support housing ministry projects financially by direct contributions or a Special "Interest" gift on investments with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund to one or both of the following:
  - a. An LCMS locally sponsored housing project; or,
  - b. An LCMS Low Income Housing Loan Fund.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

**Resolution 97-02-02A Older Adult Ministry**

**Older Adult Ministry**

**WHEREAS**, our Lord expressly shows us in His Word that older adults are to be held in high esteem (Lev. 19:32; Job 12:12; Prov. 16: 31; Is. 46:4; 1 Tim. 5:4); and

**WHEREAS**, older adults are the fastest growing segment of our population and will become the largest segment in the coming years, and

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas District, through its Older Adult Ministry Committee, has worked to enhance the ministry to older adults; and

**WHEREAS**, the Saints Alive After 55 Conferences have given older adults of the Kansas District the opportunity to gather together to encourage and strengthen one another in their ministry in God's church; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District be gratefully acknowledged for its ongoing ministry to and with older adults; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Kansas District be encouraged to continue its work through the Older Adult Ministry Committee and the Saints Alive After 55 Conferences; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Kansas District be encouraged to make older adult ministry a part of their ministry goals for the coming years; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that congregations also be encouraged to make use of the Saints Alive After 55 Conferences and programs of the Older Adult Ministry Committee.

**ACTION: MOVED, SECONDED, ADOPTED**

The Caring Ministry Floor Committee was thanked for their work.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the 1997 Convention of the Kansas District. **ACTION: ADOPTED**

The convention joined together in singing the hymn, "Christ Be My Leader."

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. David E. Meier  
District Secretary