



**LIVING**  
*Love*

The Atlantic District LC-MS  
61st Regular Convention

## Section Eight: Overtures

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THE ATLANTIC DISTRICT OF THE LC-MS  
*61st Regular Convention*

# Overtures for the 61st Regular Convention of the Atlantic District LCMS

## Circuit 1 & 2

*Supported 2 overtures of 3 & 4*

## Circuit 3 & 4

### **Ov. 01-01 To Recognize and Give Thanks for Work at Concordia College, Bronxville NY**

**WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has been actively preaching and teaching the Word of God in the Atlantic District through its educational system since its founding; and,

**WHEREAS,** Concordia College, Bronxville NY [CC-NY] was founded in 1881 to train men for entry into the seminaries of the Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod, and grew to include preparing both men and women for various vocations-service Christ and His Church; and,

**WHEREAS,** There is a time for all endeavors of man, which blossom one day and wither the next like the flowers of the field, but the Word of the lord and His work of salvation endure forever (Ecclesiastes 3; Isaiah 40; James 1); and,

**WHEREAS,** Various factors-have-led to the decision to dose CC-NY at the end of the 2020-2021 academic year, Therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That we, the Atlantic District in Convention assembled remember and recognize with thanksgiving to God the good and godly work of the many faculty and staff throughout the history of CC-NY in the training and instruction of God's Word and Christian life; and, Be it further

**RESOLVED,** That we remember and recognize with thanksgiving to God the good and godly work of the many alumni of CC-NY which they have done and will continue to do in our congregations and communities; and, Be it further

**RESOLVED,** That we give voice to our thanks and praise to God for working through CC-NY, and pray His continued guidance, as we rise and sing the Common Doxology, Be it finally

**RESOLVED,** That we memorialize the next regular convention of the LCMS to adopt the above resolution.

***Submitted by Circuits 3 & 4***

***Supported also by Circuits 1 & 2***



## Ov. 02-01 To Recognize and Give Thanks for recent graduates of the Atlantic District/ECCE Lay Deacon Training Program

**WHEREAS**, following the Biblical principles of providing dedicated individuals for service to Christ and His Church [Philippians 1:1; I Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-6), the Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church -Missouri has established the Office of Lay Deacon in a Ministry of Word and Service; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Atlantic District further established the Lay Deacon Training Program to equip these dedicated individuals to be publicly recognized as Lay Deacons of the Atlantic District; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Atlantic District has historically thanked God for the efforts of these individuals through their successful completion of the academic portion of the Lay Deacon Training Program through a annually held Service of Graduation; and,

**WHEREAS**, the COVID pandemic of 2020 to date has precluded such congratulatory gatherings, Therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District in Convention include in its proceedings a public recognition of graduates of the Atlantic District/ECCE Lay Deacon Training Program for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022; and, Be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that after the reading of the graduates' names (see below) the Atlantic District in Convention give thanks and praise to God for working through these dedicated individuals, and pray His continued guidance and blessing upon their service by rising and singing the Common Doxology.

### Class of 2020

Carrie Ausman -All Saints, Lagrangeville

Paul Rafuse -St Luke's, Dix Hills

### Class of 2021

Melissa Derenches -Bethlehem, Delmar

Robin Friesheim -St Timothy's, Hyde Park

Anthony Hellman -Good Shepherd, Warwick

Miguel Orabona -St Paul's, Saratoga Springs

Erik Petersen -Messiah, Tampa, FL

Gary Sandt -Faith, Easton, PA

### Class of 2022

Andrea Ansorge -Village, Bronxville

Diana Auer -Resurrection, Garden City

Larry Cosentino -Village, Bronxville

Anton DeRosa -Village, Bronxville

Patrick Doyle -Grace, Mastic Beach

Jennifer Engheben -Resurrection, Garden City

Daniel Harrison -Family of Faith, Middletown

Gary Miranda -Grace, Mastic Beach

Kristin Pimentel -Village, Bronxville

**Submitted by Circuits 3 & 4**

**Supported also by Circuits 1 & 2**



## **Ov. 02-02: To Provide Full-Time Assistance to the President of the Atlantic District.**

**WHEREAS**, the challenges facing the ministry and mission of our Lord's Church in the Twentyfirst Century are unprecedented throughout the history of the Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod and its Districts; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Atlantic District faces additional challenges according to its context as hosting the most diverse and multi-cultural region of the country, thereby presenting additional demands for the time and attention of the Church and its leadership, particularly that of the President of the Atlantic District; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Atlantic District in Convention proposed and approved that the Office of President of the Atlantic District be an exclusively full-time position; and,

**WHEREAS**, the part-time position of First Vice President of the Atlantic District [non-geographic] is in and of itself insufficient to assist the President of the Atlantic District in meeting the challenges facing the Church, Therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that all present and past holders of the office of First Vice President of the Atlantic District [non-geographic] be commended for their faithful and full service to Christ and His Church; and, Be it further

**RESOLVED**, and recommended for adoption that the position of First Vice President of the Atlantic District [non-geographic] be eliminated and the full-time position of Executive Assistant to the President be established by Convention and funded through the regular budget of the Atlantic District; and, Be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the office holder of Executive Assistant be an ordained pastor of the Lutheran Church -Missouri Synod without a Divine Call to a congregation[s], chosen by the President of the Atlantic District and approved by the District Board of Directors; and Be it finally,

**RESOLVED**, that the order of succession should the President of the Atlantic District resign or otherwise become unable to fulfill his duties be chosen by lot at District Convention, as has been the historic good order.

***Submitted by Circuits 3 & 4***



# Circuit 5

## Ov. 01-02 To Audit Concordia Plan Services Retirement Funding

**WHEREAS**, the LCMS is in decline and there are less professional church workers that are a part of the Concordia Plan Services Retirement Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, increased life expectancy and growing number of retired workers increases the payout of monies to retirees; and

**WHEREAS**, financial challenges in the economy have impacted investment earnings; and

**WHEREAS**, critical shortages in the funding of national synod may make inappropriate borrowing from Retirement Funds a tempting strategy; and

**WHEREAS**, transparency is critical for trust and compliance; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District in Convention move Synod in Convention (2022) to create an Audit Committee to review the Retirement plans, including projections for funding and capacity of the funds for the next 25 years, safeguards to protect funds and any recommendations for changes to the structure for best practices; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the reports of the Audit committee be shared with the Council of Presidents and then electronically to all workers in Concordia Plan Services Retirement Plans by December 31, 2022.

*Submitted by Circuit 5*

## Ov. 01-03 To Create a Restructuring Task Force to Consider the Transfer of Synod Congregations, Ministries and Assets

**WHEREAS**, the LCMS is in decline; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 pandemic and cultural trends have, and are, accelerating this decline; and

**WHEREAS**, proactive realignment is a best practice in organizational theory; and

**WHEREAS**, ecclesiastical structure is not mandated by Scripture and may be decided by congregations for the good of mission and ministry; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District in Convention move Synod in Convention (2022) to create a Restructuring Task Force to report results and make recommendations to the 2025 Synod in Convention; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that this Task Force be constituted by the Council of Presidents and include one lay person and one ordained from each Region of the Synod; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that the following questions be addressed:

What are the short term (10 years) and long term (20-30 years) projections for Synod in the areas of

- Baptized Membership

- Ordained Workers

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Rostered Workers





- Lutheran School Enrollment
- Funding for National Synod and Districts
- The viability and adaptability of RSO partners and synod entities (CPS, CPH) to transfer.
- How to create and orderly shut-down of synod by transferring congregations and assets to other synods or similar structures so that mission may continue with vigor. Special emphasis should be given to address diversity of perspective of member congregations with corresponding multiple transfer locations by adopting options that fit theological perspective of most synod congregations.
- What is the process for Synod to properly consider this plan for adoption?
- What is a realistic time line to enact the transition, if adopted?
- What are methods to help congregations, schools and ministries and RSOs and entities of Synod to celebrate restructuring as a healthy part of the life cycle that perpetuates ministry; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that this matter be undertaken only with prayerful reliance on the Holy Spirit and in a Spirit of humility to God's goodness to work in and through Synod, even if that mean a restructuring for the sake of mission and ministry.

***Submitted by Circuit 5***



## **Ov. 02-03 To Recognize the Atlantic District's Successes, Failures, and Opportunities in Ministry With Communities of Color**

**WHEREAS**, the Synod in convention (2019 Resolution 11-04A, "To Affirm the Common Humanity of All People and Ethnicities")

**RESOLVED**, "That the members of the congregations of the Synod be encouraged to work toward racial reconciliation and equality within the Church and within society-at large"; and

**WHEREAS**, the legacy of racism enacted through prejudice and discrimination has negatively impacted the needs, well-being, income, and property of people based solely on the color of their skin; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of God are striving to live faithfully, but still may participate in sinful thoughts, words, and deeds in what they do and leave undone (1 John 1:8-10), which can and has included the sin of racism; and

**WHEREAS**, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandments are to love God and love your neighbor (Mark 12:30-31); and

**WHEREAS**, Jesus illustrates for his disciples that they are to treat all persons as neighbor (Luke 10:29-37); and

**WHEREAS**, Paul exhorts us to show the love of Christ as we "bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2); and

**WHEREAS**, Martin Luther extolls us to show that love as we care for our neighbors as we support them in their needs, well-being, income, and property in his explanations of the fifth and seventh commandments; and

**WHEREAS**, in order for the Atlantic District to better engage acts of reconciliation and equality it should be informed of its history within communities of color to understand its successes and its failures; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the District President commission a task force to study the Atlantic District's history of mission, ministry, and education within communities of color, to be completed within eighteen months, so that we might better recognize and give thanks to God for our successes and make confession of any failures; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the results of this task force's study would also provide us with tangible ways to move forward in our present and future outreach efforts in communities of color; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the study will be distributed by mail to all congregations in the district and made available on the Atlantic District Web site; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention in 2022 to call on the faculty of our two seminaries to do a similar study of our national mission, ministry, and education efforts to be completed within twenty four months after district proceedings and made available on the Synod website.

**Submitted by Circuit 5**

**Same resolution submitted by Circuit 7**



**WHEREAS,** the world population continues to increase; and

**WHEREAS,** many people live within the geographic boundaries of the Atlantic District yet many congregations in the district are shrinking numerically; and

**WHEREAS,** the Holy Spirit moves people through the Word and Sacraments to be about their work in congregations in all settings; and

**WHEREAS,** funding is essential for running and managing congregations; and

**WHEREAS,** many congregations in the Atlantic District struggle with a sense of direction and vision while they struggle with financial challenges; and

**WHEREAS,** congregations may not be financially viable to function independently; therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** that the Atlantic District determine the causes for the numerical decline of any congregations in numerical decline in the district; and be it

**RESOLVED,** that the Atlantic District investigate viable funding models for congregations that do not include property renting, property sales, or property redevelopment; and be it

**RESOLVED,** that the Atlantic District identify keys for spiritually and economically viable congregations; and be it finally

**RESOLVED,** that the leadership of the Atlantic District report its findings before the end of the next 12 months accompanied with suggestions for local parish, circuit and district action.

***Submitted by Circuit 5***



## Ov. 02-05 Intervention with Struggling Congregations

**WHEREAS**, the congregational polity of the LCMS allows for congregations to govern themselves;  
and

**WHEREAS**, many congregations struggle but do not seek assistance from the wider Church (circuit, district, etc.) until issues have become too acute; and

**WHEREAS**, the desire is to keep congregations and multiply the number of congregations instead of closing them; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the parishes of the Atlantic District remain open to assistance from the wider Church, especially when parishes are struggling in the work our Lord has given them to do; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District leadership do what it can at every opportunity to intervene in and to assist congregations that are challenged or struggling with the fulfillment of their mission work; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District leadership report on its work in this regard 12 months from this convention; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District do what it can to prevent the closure of congregations in the Atlantic District.

***Submitted by Circuit 5***

## Ov. 02-06 Funding from Closed Congregations

**WHEREAS**, many congregations and ministries have closed through the years in the Atlantic District,  
and

**WHEREAS**, funding from those congregations has paid for projects throughout the Atlantic District that may not have benefitted directly the geographic area where the congregation or ministry that closed had been located; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District communicate to other parishes in the district the amount of money that was realized when a congregation or ministry closes; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District develop policies that ensure that a certain percentage of funding from the closed ministries or congregations go to thriving congregations in the same geographic area of the closed congregations or ministries whenever possible; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that local ministries be encouraged to inquire of the Atlantic District concerning funds from closed congregations or ministries in order to receive all, most or a substantial amount of that funding so that our Lord's work may continue in some manner in the geographic area in which the closed congregations or ministries previously existed.

***Submitted by Circuit 5***



## Ov. 01-04 Producing Religious Education Materials

**WHEREAS**, the teaching of the faith is part of the primary work of the Church; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of doctrinally sound resources is part of the covenant in which members of the LCMS walk together, according to Article III and Article V of the Constitution of the LCMS; and

**WHEREAS**, the faith is communicated with words and images; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District in convention petition the LCMS to publish doctrinally sound religious education materials; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that this petition include that these publications do not simply put token pictures of people of color in them; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that images from Bible stories—including images of Jesus Christ- no longer include only images of people of European descent; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that publication arms of the LCMS consult directly with the Atlantic District leadership, ordained, commissioned, and laypeople in order to make sure that this goal is reached; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that progress on this front be reported to the Synod for the 2025 Regular Convention.

**Submitted by Circuit 5**

## Ov. 01-05 Encouraging the Use of the Ancient Catechumenate Model

**WHEREAS**, our Lord told His apostles to preach the Gospel, making disciples of all nations; and

**WHEREAS**, faith formation is part of the ongoing work of the Church; and

**WHEREAS**, the ancient catechumenate has provided a way not only to help receive new people into the Church but has helped to shape congregations to be conscious of their liturgical and missional identities; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District in convention commend the ancient catechumenate to its congregations as a helpful model for helping new people to be received into the Church and helping congregations realize and embrace their liturgical and missional identities; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that congregations already employing this model be consulted with respect to how this can be implemented in congregations; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that forminglutherans.org be consulted as a resource for learning more about the ancient catechumenate model and its implementation in congregations.

**Submitted by Circuit 5**



## Ov. 01-06 Supporting Concordia College New York

**WHEREAS,** “Concordia College New York is a Christian higher education community of learning where mutual respect flourishes, responsibility is developed and reverence for God is cultivated so that students can pursue lives of passion, purpose and service” (Mission Statement of Concordia College New York); and

**WHEREAS,** Concordia was founded in 1881 in what was the LCMS Eastern District and is now Circuit Five of the LCMS Atlantic District when The Evangelical Lutheran Church and School of St. Matthew in Manhattan established a “Sexta” and “Quinta” at St. Matthew Academy, thereby beginning what would be called the “New York Progymnasium;” and

**WHEREAS,** Concordia College (referred to as the “Progymnasium,” “Concordia Progymnasium,” and “Concordia Lutheran Collegiate Institute” before being known universally as “Concordia College”) relocated to the Hamlet of Hawthorne, New York on Buttermilk Hill before moving to its current location in the Village of Bronxville, New York, with both Hawthorne and Bronxville being in Circuit Five of the LCMS Atlantic District; and

**WHEREAS,** Concordia College New York not only has served the east coast of the United States but people throughout the nation and around the world by giving all people access to quality Christian education and rigorous opportunities to pursue studies in the liberal arts; and

**WHEREAS,** the Lutheran Education Society (LES) as an organization of New York Lutherans along with many other dedicated servants of the Lord throughout the metropolitan New York area and beyond have invested time, energy, and financial resources so that Concordia College New York could continue its mission of service through the years and decades; and

**WHEREAS,** to date, 10,756 people have been graduated from Concordia College New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Concordia College New York is the alma mater for over 2,000 professional Church workers who have served throughout Christ’s Holy Church as Concordia provided them quality theological education and vocational formation in the unique setting of the New York metropolitan area so that these workers could serve all over the world; and

**WHEREAS,** Concordia College New York has been a place for Lutherans and for others to gather for conventions, meetings, concerts, art events, sports events, and other activities for over a century; and

**WHEREAS,** Concordia College New York has provided many people the opportunity to hear the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ as they are encouraged and directed in their vocations of service throughout the world, with many people being baptized and countless people being re-rooted to the Christian faith; therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** that Concordia College be commended for its God-pleasing work; and be it

**RESOLVED,** that Lutherans in their congregations promote Concordia College New York and its many programs and offerings, especially its programs that train workers for the Church; and be it

**RESOLVED,** that Lutherans throughout the east coast of the United States and throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be encouraged to support Concordia College New York with their regular prayers, precious time, diverse talents, and generous financial resources; and be it

**RESOLVED,** that all who have benefitted in any way through the years from Concordia College New York support Concordia in any way possible; and be it finally

**RESOLVED,** that both the LCMS Atlantic District and the entire LCMS take every available step and



use every gift given to them by God to ensure that Concordia College New York continues to operate with its inspiring mission for generations to come to the glory and praise of Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***Submitted by Circuit 5***



# Circuit 6

## Ov. 02-15 To Encourage House Blessings

**WHEREAS**, Holy Scripture speaks often of the divine blessing of house and home (viz. Psalm 104, Psalm 128, Luke 19, Luke 10), and

**WHEREAS**, Martin Luther's Small Catechism included devotions and prayers for use in the home, and

**WHEREAS**, the Lutheran Service Book and other Lutheran hymnals and agendas include liturgies for the blessing of a home for pastoral and congregational use, and

**WHEREAS**, the blessing of a home provides opportunity for a ministry of congregational hospitality in mission for both member families and those requesting such blessing, Therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that Circuit Six of the Atlantic District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod commend to its own congregations and pastors the ministry of house blessing, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that Circuit Six commend this ministry to both the Atlantic District in Convention and to the Missouri Synod at its convention, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a committee be appointed by the President of the Atlantic District to prepare resources and avenues to begin this ministry in the congregations and regions of the Atlantic District with resource availability within the calendar year 2022, and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that these resources and this commendation be brought to the national assembly of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at its convention for use and guidance.

**Submitted by Circuit 6**





# Circuit 7

## Ov. 02-07 Urban Ministry Initiative Within the Atlantic District

**WHEREAS**, the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ tells us to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19); and

**WHEREAS**, the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ will beckon the “holy city, new Jerusalem” (Revelation 21:2), a city demographically composed as New York City is; and

**WHEREAS**, local churches are called to share “as a matter of fairness” from their abundance and “supply” the needs of other ministries that are lacking (2 Corinthians 8:13-14); and

**WHEREAS**, some churches within the Atlantic District have vacant pulpits and fading ministries; and

**WHEREAS**, most of these aforementioned churches within the Atlantic District are either inactive or in the process of being sold by the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the population of LCMS churches and occupied pulpits in the Atlantic District has been faltering; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that local churches from within the Atlantic District would financially support an urban ministry initiative (based on their financial state) to replant two ministries from those churches on the verge of closing or being sold; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that 50% of church building sales from the Atlantic District would be reinvested back into the urban ministry initiative and other church planting ventures of the district to help replant new ministries and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that these replanted churches would be led by church planters with prior experience in urban and contextualized ministry and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District work with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and its two seminaries would to ensure that new pastors are being called to the Atlantic District to help fill these revitalized and newly planted churches.

*Submitted by Circuit 7*

## Ov. 02-08 To Apply the Atlantic District's Mission Statement to the Covid 19 Pandemic

**WHEREAS**, the Atlantic District's mission statement is, “Engaging the world with the gospel of hope;” and

**WHEREAS**, this mission statement was adopted the morning of September 11, 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, this statement has been beneficial for healing following the 9/11 Attacks; and

**WHEREAS**, we are again in a time of great need for healing due to the Covid-19 Pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, mission statements are meant to focus organizations/ministries; let it therefore be

**RESOLVED**, that the District President of the Atlantic District appoint a task force that can tangibly apply the District mission statement, “Engaging the world with the gospel of hope,” to the Covid-19 Pandemic and be it further



**RESOLVED**, that the task force produce resources for congregations and ministries to use to bring about healing for those affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District in convention encourage congregations and ministries to adopt a theme called, "A Year of Healing for the Covid-19 Pandemic" that can unite us around a common goal.

**Submitted by Circuit 7**

## **Ov. 02-03 To Recognize the Atlantic District's Success, Failures, and Opportunities in Ministry with Communities of Color**

**WHEREAS**, The Synod in convention (2019 Resolution 11-04A, "To Affirm the Common Humanity of All People and Ethnicities")

**RESOLVED**, "That the members of the congregations of the Synod be encouraged to work toward racial reconciliation and equality within the Church and within society-at large"; and

**WHEREAS**, The legacy of racism enacted through prejudice and discrimination has negatively impacted the needs, well-being, income, and property of people based solely on the color of their skin; and

**WHEREAS**, The people of God are striving to live faithfully, but still participate in sinful thoughts, words, and deeds in what they do and leave undone (1 John 1:8-10), which can and has included the sin of racism; and

**WHEREAS**, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandments are to love God and love your neighbor (Mark 12:30-31); and

**WHEREAS**, Jesus illustrates for his disciples that they are to treat all persons as neighbor (Luke 10:29-37); and

**WHEREAS**, Paul exhorts us to show the love of Christ as we "bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2); and

**WHEREAS**, Martin Luther extolls us to show that love as we care for our neighbors as we support them in their needs, well-being, income, and property in his explanations of the fifth and seventh commandments; and

**WHEREAS**, In order for the Atlantic District to better engage acts of reconciliation and equality it should be informed of its history within communities of color to understand its successes and its failures; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the District President commission a task force to study the Atlantic District's history of mission, ministry, and education within communities of color, to be completed within eighteen months, so that we might better recognize and give thanks to God for our successes and make confession of our failures; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the results of this task force's study would also provide us with tangible ways to move forward in our present and future outreach efforts in communities of color; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the study will be distributed by mail to all congregations in the district and made available on the Atlantic District Web site; and be it finally



**RESOLVED**, That the Atlantic District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention in 2022 to call on the faculty of our two seminaries to do a similar study of our national mission, ministry,

and education efforts to be completed within twenty four months after district proceedings and made available on the Synodical Web site.

***Submitted by Circuit 7***

***Same resolutions as submitted by Circuit 5***



# Circuit 9

## Ov. 02-09 To Promote Transparency of District Governance

**WHEREAS,** The Board of Directors of the Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod serve on behalf of the congregations of the district; and

**WHEREAS,** The Atlantic District relies on the congregations for prayer, volunteers, and financial support; and

**WHEREAS,** Many congregations and ministers in the Atlantic District are unaware of the actions of the Board of Directors; and

**WHEREAS,** Many congregations and ministers in the Atlantic District are unaware of the financial position, assets and liabilities, and activities of the district; and

**WHEREAS,** Communication of the minutes of Board meetings and of audited financial statements are either unavailable or not easily accessible to the congregations and ministers of the Atlantic District; therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** The bylaws of the Atlantic District be posted on the district website; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** The scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors, task forces, and other governance bodies of the Atlantic District be posted on a calendar on the district website; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** The proposed minutes of the Board of Directors, task forces, and other governing bodies of the Atlantic District be posted on the district website with security measures in place to limit access to Atlantic District member congregations within three weeks of each meeting; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** Approved minutes of the same be posted on the district website with security measures in place to limit access to Atlantic District member congregations within one week of approval; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** Prayer requests and needs for volunteers regularly be sent to congregations and ministers of the Atlantic District; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** A full report of all real and personal property held by the Atlantic District as well as all her liabilities be made available annually to member congregations; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** An audited summary of the financial position of the Atlantic District be sent annually to member congregations along with an appeal for financial support; and be it finally

**RESOLVED,** The congregations and ministers of the Atlantic District be encouraged to participate in the governance of the Atlantic District and to support the broader mission of the church.

**Submitted by Circuit 9**



## Ov. 01-07 To Affirm and Protect Freedom to Exercise Religion

**WHEREAS,** The eternal power and divine nature of God are clearly perceived by men through the creation (Rom 1:20); and

**WHEREAS,** Government shall make no law prohibiting the free exercise of religion (Constitution of the United States of America); and

**WHEREAS,** The natural right of men to worship God according to their conscience is fundamental to human flourishing and must not be disparaged by just authority; and

**WHEREAS,** Free exercise of religion is not limited to the ability to think religious thoughts, but also entails the ability to participate freely in religious rituals; and

**WHEREAS,** Public gathering is essential to Christian religious practice (Heb. 10:25) and that of many other religions; and

**WHEREAS,** Any governmental interference in the exercise of religion, including but not limited to the practice of ritual and the right to assemble in worship, is unjust and sets a dangerous precedent; and

**WHEREAS,** During the COVID-19 crisis of 2020 many government actions in New York State and elsewhere have been taken to limit, control, and prohibit the exercise of religion; and

**WHEREAS,** These actions have resulted in real harm to members of congregations in the Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and others residing in our communities; and

**WHEREAS,** “In relation to its members the Synod is not a an ecclesiastical government exercising legislative or coercive powers” (LCMS Constitution, Article VII:1); and

**WHEREAS,** The Synod, and therefore the Atlantic District of the LCMS, “shall provide protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their duties and the maintenance of their rights” (LCMS Constitution, Article III:9); therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** The Atlantic District affirm that each congregation of the LCMS has the responsibility of spiritual care for her members and community; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** The member congregations of the LCMS take care that gospel not be bound by government infringement, whether intentionally or not; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** The member congregations of the LCMS boldly continue in their common mission to seek and save the lost especially in difficulty and hardship; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** The congregations of the LCMS perform these responsibilities with all necessary caution in light of whatever circumstances may arise; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** The Atlantic District shall directly petition the governor and legislature of New York State never again to attempt such restriction of the natural rights of men; and be it finally

**RESOLVED,** The Atlantic District of the LCMS memorialize the LCMS in convention to pass a similar resolution at the next regular convention of the LCMS.

**Submitted by Circuit 9**



**WHEREAS,** The President of Synod has extensive responsibility for supervision of doctrine and the administration of the Synod (LCMS Constitution, article XI.B); and

**WHEREAS,** There are five candidates for President of Synod (Bylaw 3.12.2.1); and

**WHEREAS,** The number of candidates was changed from three to five at the previous convention of the Synod (2019 Resolution 9-07); and

**WHEREAS,** Current bylaws provide that “if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast... the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot...” (Bylaw 3.12.2.4); and

**WHEREAS,** This practice is contrary to historical practice for the election of the President of Synod (e.g. Bylaw 3.12.1.4 of the 2007 Handbook) and current practice for the election of First Vice-President (Bylaw 3.12.2.6(b)); and

**WHEREAS,** This practice may promote electioneering; and

**WHEREAS,** Voter participation in the election of the President of Synod is of concern (2019 Resolution 916); therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** Bylaw 3.12.2.4 be amended as follows

PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING

3.12.2.4 ... If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, a second or succeeding ballots are required for a majority; the candidate receiving the fewest votes and all candidates receiving less than 15 percent of the votes cast shall be dropped from the ballot, unless only one candidate receives 15 percent or more of the votes cast, in which case the three highest candidates shall constitute the ballot and another vote shall be taken in the same manner.

and be it finally

**RESOLVED,** The Secretary of Synod, in consultation with the Commission on Handbook, consider the possibility of implementing the online presidential election using one ranked-choice ballot and include the results of this consideration in his report to the next regular convention of the Synod.

***Submitted by Circuit 9***



# Circuit 10

## Ov. 01-09 Overture To Promote Ministry to College and University Students among the Congregations of the Atlantic District

**WHEREAS**, a vital demographic in need of sustained ministry and spiritual care in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is comprised of college and university students (including undergraduate and graduate students); and

**WHEREAS**, this demographic is most-susceptible to falling away from the faith without sustained pastoral care and a supportive church community; and

**WHEREAS**, successful and effective campus ministry is often the product of a coordinated group-effort on the part of multiple congregations working together to ensure that the children of said congregations are connected to a supportive and nurturing church community at their university or college; and

**WHEREAS**, LCMS campus ministries can be at a disadvantage in terms of funding, man-power, and communications; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent synodical support for and promotion of campus ministries cannot be relied upon given constraints on funding and personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, a robust campus ministry focus is necessary not only for the health of Synod but, more importantly, for the health and souls of young adults on our college and university campuses; and

**WHEREAS**, The Atlantic District of the LCMS is in a unique position, by virtue of its size, to encourage mutual promotion of campus ministries among the congregations within its boundaries; Therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District encourage congregations and clergy in the Atlantic District to connect students with local congregations upon their leaving to attend higher education; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District of the LCMS develop a directory of congregations either currently involved in campus ministry or in proximity to college and university campuses to better facilitate the sharing of resources between congregations that can serve campuses, as well as communication between pastors who are seeking to ensure proper pastoral care for students in their congregations; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District take the lead in reaching out to other districts in the LCMS to encourage pastors there to reach out to Atlantic District congregations that their students may attend to better facilitate their pastoral care; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Atlantic District develop a set of resources for congregations that wish to become involved in campus ministry but do not know how to do so; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the District President of the Atlantic District would develop an ad hoc committee to oversee the carrying-out of these resolutions, such that said committee is able to deliver a report at the next district convention in June 2024; and be it finally



**RESOLVED,** That the congregations and district officers of the Atlantic District make college and university ministry a major focus of district policy and focus by 2024, with the result that more students are encouraged and strengthened in their faith and encouraged to stay active in the church.

***Submitted by Circuit 9***





# OVERTURES FROM THE ATLANTIC DISTRICT BOARD AND INDIVIDUAL CONGREGATIONS

## Atlantic District Board of Directors

### **Ov. 02-10 To Give Thanks for Concordia College - New York and Explore Future Lutheran Higher Education Opportunities in the East Coast Region**

**WHEREAS,** Concordia College - New York served as an institution of higher education for over 140 years; and

**WHEREAS,** Through the Concordia University System, countless women and men receive a quality, Christian education to be sent out to live their vocations in the name of Jesus; and

**WHEREAS,** Concordia College - New York continues to have a significant impact on the church at large through the witness of the priesthood of believers who attended the college; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1881 the Lutheran Church of St. Matthew in Manhattan established a school to prepare men to continue education at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis which later became Concordia College- New York

**WHEREAS,** With the closure of Concordia College - New York, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has no Higher Education learning center on the East Coast of the United States; therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Atlantic District gives thanks to God for Concordia College - New York and its contribution to the wider church and society; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That the Atlantic District gives thanks to God for the Care and Comfort Committee that raised dollars to support the staff members of Concordia College - New York who were losing jobs due to the closure of the school; and be it finally

**RESOLVED,** That the Atlantic District in Convention instructs the District President to work with other District Presidents in the East Coast Region and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in identifying opportunities for the establishment of a new higher education learning center, either physically or virtually, based in the East Coast Region

**Submitted by Atlantic District Board of Directors**



## **Ov. 02-11 To Strengthen the Nonvoting Advisory Delegate Participation at Conventions**

**WHEREAS,** Currently, there are 12,010 Ministers of Religion – Commissioned (Church Worker Update System - March 2021) who serve the mission and ministry of congregations, schools, child development centers, camps, compassion centers, and mission work throughout the national and global mission fields; and

**WHEREAS,** The current structure of the Synod does not allow for a third category of voting delegates at district and Synod conventions (Synod Handbook: Article IX, Article XII.10.b); and

**WHEREAS,** The Synod highly values Ministers of Religion – Commissioned for their eagerness to serve the Lord and His Church (2019 Resolution. 9-17, “To Study Voting Privilege in the LCMS” p.201 of 2019 LCMS Convention Proceedings); and

**WHEREAS,** Ministers of Religion – Commissioned are considered Advisory Members with representation, voice, but no vote at conventions of districts and Synod, along with “those ordained ministers not eligible for election as a voting delegate” under Bylaw 3.1.2.1(d) ... (p,101 Handbook 2019) with representation, voice, but no vote at conventions of districts and Synod; and

**WHEREAS,** Some districts utilize the voice and guidance of their Ministers of Religion – Commissioned in district conventions through a non-counted advisory member vote; and

**WHEREAS,** The Atlantic District has passed resolutions in previous conventions to study and garner the guidance of Ministers of Religion – Commissioned, and

**WHEREAS,** This honors the bylaw and structure of the Convention while allowing the Nonvoting Advisory Delegate voice to be heard and their vote recognized; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Atlantic District enable Nonvoting Advisory Delegates to provide a preliminary non-binding vote during its regular convention, and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That the results of the advisory vote be published prior to the delegate vote; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That this become effective with the next District Convention in 2025, and be it finally

**RESOLVED,** That the Atlantic District in Convention memorialize the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Convention to pass a like-minded resolution.

***Submitted by Atlantic District Board of Directors***



# St Peter, Brooklyn

## Ov. 01-10 To Strengthen and Expand Routes to Ministry

**WHEREAS**, in 2006 the Atlantic District in Convention passed resolutions designed to strengthen and expand the scope of mission and ministry by resolving to prepare 100 home-grown mission leaders for service to Lord and Church, and

**WHEREAS**, by God's grace well over 100 men and women have been developed, trained and sent to serve in congregations of the Atlantic District as Atlantic District Lay Deacons, Deaconesses, Commissioned Rostered Workers and Pastors, and

**WHEREAS**, the benefits of this leadership development model have been visible signs of God's grace in more than half of the congregations of the Atlantic Districts exercising various spiritual gifts in service, and

**WHEREAS**, "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few," and

**WHEREAS**, mission opportunity remains at the highest level in the Atlantic District even as transitions in leadership demand more strong Lutheran Christian leaders in our congregations and their communities, and

**WHEREAS**, SMP, EIIT, HTC and other (list) have provided excellent avenues for continuing the development toward service of "home-grown mission leaders" in the Atlantic District, and

**WHEREAS**, the pastors being developed, ordained and called to the Atlantic District through these programs and others for Commissioned workers remain a primary source of hope for the Lutheran Christian future in Eastern New York State, Therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That these programs, the Atlantic District Lay Diaconate and other programs leading to the development of mission leaders at all levels of service be commended and recommended to the congregations of our District for use, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Atlantic District in Convention send this commendation and recommendation to the national LCMS convention for adoption, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that in particular the global impact programs (EIIT, HTC and the other one) be commended to the seminaries and to the Synod in convention for strengthening and expansion in scope and potential in preparing and certifying "General Pastors" for the LCMS, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Synod in Convention remove the label "specific" from the Specific Ministry Pastor program, since the course work is substantially the same as EIIT and HTC as well as the former DELTO program, and these pastors also be granted, after full completion of their course work and certification, the "General Pastor" designation, and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the Atlantic District in Convention in July, 2022 resolve to renew its 2006 commitment by pledging to raise up and prepare 100 new home-grown mission leaders in the next six years.

**Submitted by St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn**

## Ov. 02-13 To Assess the impact of COVID needs of AD Congregations and Determine a Path Forward



THE ATLANTIC DISTRICT OF THE LCMS

61st Regular Convention

Overtures from The Atlantic District Board and Individual Congregations

Section Eight: Overtures

8.27

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 came as a global pandemic and touched people across the world, and

**WHEREAS,** COVID-19 hastened the stagnation and decline some churches were already experiencing and has impacted each congregation in its own way, and

**WHEREAS,** the full impact of COVID-19 has not been realized in our churches as well as other parts of society, and

**WHEREAS,** to develop an effective plan, one must understand the actual data and issues that need to be overcome, and

**WHEREAS,** as the Synod in this place the Atlantic District strives to walk together as we share the joys and challenges of each of our congregations and members of synod, therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** the District President and Praesidium develop an assessment tool to evaluate the effects of COVID-19 on the life of our congregations and workers, be it further

**RESOLVED,** that each congregation be encouraged to report statistical data to the synod to provide accurate data that can be used as part of the assessment, be it further

**RESOLVED,** that when assessment information is gathered regional gatherings be held to discuss the findings of the pandemic's impacts on the congregational life, be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the District President, District Praesidium, District Circuit Visitors, and District Staff discuss and report findings to Atlantic District congregations and church workers via its various mediums of communication, be it finally

**RESOLVED,** a final reporting of the data and regional discussions including the findings of the strategies and plans implemented by local congregations be shared with all congregations to strengthen, empower and encourage congregations, and workers as we endeavor to further the hope of the Gospel throughout the district.

***Submitted by St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY***



# Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Bronx

## Ov. 01-11 To Provide Christian Resources in Addressing Racism

**WHEREAS,** Racism remains an issue that is apparent in our society; and

**WHEREAS,** Racism is a sin, as well as an obstacle to the work of the Church, it is incumbent upon us to examine our own human failings in view of the Word of God; and

**WHEREAS,** Dr. Martin Luther taught, and we confess, that the Fifth Commandment, “You shall not murder,” means that we should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbors, but help and defend them in every physical need, which we have failed to do; and

**WHEREAS,** We lament the silence of many Christians in the face of racism; and

**WHEREAS,** Racism is manifested in discrimination in jobs, housing, education, and other areas, past and present, causes great suffering and harm to many people; and

**WHEREAS,** Many LCMS convention resolutions on the issue of race have asserted the clear teaching from the Holy Scriptures that all human beings, have been created in the image of God and redeemed through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, yet the challenges in mission outreach across cultures and dealing with racism remain pronounced; and

**WHEREAS,** The report of Synod’s Commission on Theology and Church Relations (Racism and the Church, 1994) documents a disturbing pattern in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod of following the path of our surrounding culture regarding slavery and other racial injustices, thus conforming to the world rather than being transformed in Christ; and

**WHEREAS,** We give thanks to God for courageous leaders among us who have lived love by sharing the Gospel of Jesus across cultural divides; and

**WHEREAS,** To reach deeply into the life of our congregations, a church-wide campaign that is truly filled with the love and joy of the Holy Spirit cries out for our response; therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** that we give thanks for the work that the LCMS has done addressing racism; and be it

**RESOLVED,** that curricula be developed by Concordia Publishing House to teach people about the ills of racism and how we are called to combat it; and be it

**RESOLVED,** that these curricula developed are designed so that people of all ages and in all educational settings (homeschool, preschool, elementary school, middle school, high school, college, graduate school, seminary, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, parish educational programs, etc.) will benefit directly and intentionally from them; and be it

**RESOLVED,** that, in addition to the development of new curricula, educational and catechetical material dealing with the Fifth Commandment in our church body’s educational resources shall address the issue of racism directly and clearly so that “racism” is not regarded simply as a side topic but as a part of the broader and necessary body of knowledge for Christians to learn; and be it

**RESOLVED,** that sermon writing resources be developed so that pastors will be able to identify how racism is addressed in the Holy Scriptures and be assisted in making biblical applications for the preaching of Law and Gospel; and be it



**RESOLVED**, that people from the LCMS Atlantic District be involved in and consulted about these new and revised resources before they are published for the wider Church; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that we do everything possible so that as we in the LCMS are “making disciples for life,” this church body will be known as a church body that welcomes people regardless of their ethnicity or culture in the Name of and by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the LCMS for action at the 68th Regular Convention.

**Submitted by Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Bronx, New York**

## **Ov. 02-12 To Support the Work of Chaplains in the Atlantic District**

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to reach out with the Gospel to individuals and their families both in our congregations as well as to a wide range of people within our communities hurting during difficult times; and

**WHEREAS**, chaplains deliver Christ’s mercy through their words and service, providing much-needed spiritual care for His people in unique and challenging environments, often in crisis situations; and

**WHEREAS**, formal chaplaincy training through a recognized CPE program can enhance pastoral ministry to individuals in the congregation as well as to institutions in the community such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools and universities, prisons, the military, the maritime industry, to emergency medical teams, and at times of domestic attacks; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that we recognize and thank ordained and commissioned workers already serving in chaplaincy ministry in the Atlantic District; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that we encourage and support pastors and commissioned workers to consider formal chaplaincy training to enhance their ministry in bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ specifically into institutions and emergency contexts, serving hurting and broken people who are often in crisis desiring to live as God’s redeemed children.

**Submitted by Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Bronx, New York**

## **Ov. 01-13 To Address Violence**

**WHEREAS**, the Lord has created human beings fearfully and wonderfully (Genesis 1; Genesis 2; Psalm 139); and

**WHEREAS**, the Fifth Commandment says, “You shall not murder,” (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17; Small Catechism, Fifth Commandment) since all life belongs to God; and

**WHEREAS**, Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the dead so that we may have life in His name by grace through faith, delivered through the Means of the Spirit (John 3:16; John 6; Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 Peter 3:21; 1 Corinthians 11); and

**WHEREAS**, sinful people continue to reject Christ’s extravagant grace as violence continues in our land, especially when people use guns to murder and harm people; and

**WHEREAS**, many people have been injured and murdered recently in schools, parking lots, churches, and stores; and

**WHEREAS**, much public debate and discussion have ensued with various perspectives on issues



related to violence and guns; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the LCMS decries gun violence and any violence that harms the lives of our neighbors as part of our proclamation of the sanctity of human life; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that the LCMS prays for all who have been affected by gun violence; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that responsible action be taken to address gun violence in our time and in our land; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that the LCMS provide resources to educate people and further inform the public discourse concerning violence and especially gun violence; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that the LCMS work intentionally with civic authorities and others to prevent further violence in our land; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the LCMS for consideration at the LCMS' 68th Regular Convention.

**Submitted by Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Bronx, NY**

## **Ov. 01-14      Supporting Colleges and Universities of the Concordia University System (CUS)**

**WHEREAS**, colleges and universities of the CUS provide “Christian higher education communities of learning where mutual respect flourishes, responsibility is developed and reverence for God is cultivated so that students can pursue lives of passion, purpose and service” (Mission Statement of Concordia College New York); and

**WHEREAS**, each of the colleges and universities within CUS is committed to the integration of curricula and academic subjects with the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and

**WHEREAS**, the colleges and universities of the CUS have served thousands of people throughout the nation and around the world by giving them access to quality Christian education and rigorous opportunities to pursue studies in the liberal arts; and

**WHEREAS**, thousands of people have been graduated from colleges and universities within the CUS including thousands of professional Church workers who have served throughout Christ’s Holy Church all over the world as they have been provided quality theological education and vocational formation; and

**WHEREAS**, the colleges and universities of the CUS have provided many people the opportunity to hear the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ as they are encouraged and directed in their vocations of service throughout the world, with many people being baptized and countless people being re-rooted to the Christian faith; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, the colleges and universities of the CUS be commended for their God-pleasing work; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that Lutherans in their congregations promote the colleges and universities of the CUS and their programs and offerings, especially programs that train workers for the Church; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that Lutherans throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod be encouraged to support the colleges and universities of CUS with their regular prayers, precious time, diverse

talents, and generous financial resources, and be it further resolved that the Atlantic District Board and Individual Congregations  
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**RESOLVED**, that all who have benefitted in any way through the years from the colleges and universities of the CUS support them in any way possible; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that both the LCMS Atlantic District and the entire LCMS take every available step and use every gift given to them by God to ensure that the colleges and universities of CUS continue to operate with their inspiring mission for generations to come to the glory and praise of Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***Submitted by Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Bronx, NY***





# Immanuel Lutheran Church, Whitestone

## Ov. 02-14 To Begin New Ministries in Sustainable Way

**WHEREAS,** Our Lord, Jesus Christ in the Great Commission commands His disciples “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”, and

**WHEREAS,** the Atlantic District was founded with a mission mindset that planted churches and ministries throughout New York City, Long Island, the Hudson Valley, Capital Region and beyond as expressed in our guiding statement Engaging the World with the Gospel of Hope

**WHEREAS,** the population of New York continues to grow with people from the United States and immigrants from other countries, and

**WHEREAS,** New York City and the Capital Region consistently are listed as cities in the nation with the largest percentage of dechurched and unchurched people, and

**WHEREAS,** the Atlantic District’s guiding statement, “Engaging the World with the Gospel of Hope” encourages us to share the hope of Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world at in our neighborhoods, and

**WHEREAS,** congregations, schools, social ministry organizations, enrichment programs all share the love of Jesus through word and deed collectively as ministries in various means, therefore be it

**RESOLVED,** the Atlantic District reaffirm our guiding statement to Engage the World with the gospel of Hope as congregations, pastors, commissioned ministers and members of our congregation recommit to being a missionary people, and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the missions task force be charged with providing support and guidance in planting a new ministry between each regular convention, and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the Atlantic District develop and deploy resources, human and financial, to renew congregations and members in their baptismal identity as missionaries of the hope we have in Jesus Christ, and be it finally

**RESOLVED,** a report be given on the effort, progress and future goals of each new ministry to be shared at the next successive convention.

**Submitted by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Whitestone, NY**

**June 30, 2022**

