

FLGA District, LCMS
5850 T. G. Lee Blvd, Suite 500
Orlando, FL 32822-4410

(407) 857-5556
(407) 857-5665 fax
(877) 457-5556 toll free
<http://flgadistrict.org>



Gregory S. Walton
President

Douglas L. Kallesen
Outreach

Mark A. Brink
School Ministries

Daniel J. Reichard
LCEF & Administration

John Elliott
Finance & Administration

November 4, 2015

Dear Fellow Servants of Jesus,

Greetings in the name of our Master, Jesus, who calls us and sends us into the vineyard of this world to gather a harvest with His love and grace!

Let me once again thank you for service as a delegate to the 32nd Regular Convention of the Florida-Georgia District. What a great joy it was to serve with you as a fellow steward, empowered by the Word so that we might carry out His mission by equipping, empowering and engaging—connecting people to Jesus! Because of your participation we had a great convention time together and accomplished much for the sake of God's Church in the Florida-Georgia District.

The Proceedings from the 32nd Regular Convention of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, held in Orlando, Florida June 12-14, 2105 are now available electronically through our District Website. They are also available in a hard copy format by contacting my office, 877-457-5556. This packet has been designed to be included as an addendum to your Convention Workbook and will fit in the back of your convention binder. Please take time to read it through.

Again, we are grateful for your partnership and service as a delegate. Don't forget that an important privilege of your role as a Delegate will be to participate in the upcoming election of our Synod President and First Vice-President which will be done electronically prior to the 2016 Synod Convention. Should you have any questions regarding the process, you may contact Rev. Raymond L. Hartwig, LCMS Secretary or via the Synod Website www.lcms.org/convention.

Many blessings on your reading of the accomplishments we made to His glory and on your deliberations and thanks for your faithful service to our Lord and His Church.



Peace in Jesus,

Rev. Gregory S. Walton, President
Florida-Georgia District, LCMS



Convention Headquarters
Marriott Orlando Airport
7499 Augusta National Drive
Orlando, Florida 32822

Proceedings

Index

Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Critical Targets, Core Value Statement	2
Convention Leaders	3
Floor Committees	4
Delegates	6
Convention Agenda	14
Convention Minutes	16
Board of Directors Election Results	17
Circuit Visitors Election Results	27
Official Acts and Notices	34
Pastors	
Initial Placements and Installations	34
Reinstatements	39
Transfers to Our District	40
Transfers to Other Districts	42
Called to Glory	44
Resignations – Removals	45
Status Changes.....	46
Emeritus.....	48
Commissioned Ministers	
Initial Placements and Installations	34
Reinstatements	39
Transfers to Our District	40
Transfers to Other Districts	42
Called to Glory	44
Resignations – Removals	45
Status Changes.....	46
Emeritus.....	48
Congregations	50
President’s Report	51
President’s Acceptance Speech	76



Vision Statement

“Every member...Equipped, Empowered, Engaged...Connecting People to Jesus.”

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Florida-Georgia District is to Serve, Assist and Encourage congregations in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Critical Ministry Targets

Critical Ministry Target: Leadership

Desired Outcome

- *District leaders show an annual increase in the number of objective continuing education benchmarks completed.*
- *Demographic and generational diversity among leaders in the District to increase annually.*

Critical Ministry Target: Congregations

Desired Outcome

- *Each year 50% of the District congregations will report an increase of its members engaged in the study of God's Word. (Additionally, we want to see 50% of our congregations increase worship attendance.)*

Critical Ministry Target: Outreach

Desired Outcome

- *District congregations report at least 3,500 adult confirmations and professions of faith annually.*

Core Value Statement

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (NIV)

- ∞ We value the truth that all people matter to God and therefore to us. (1 John 2:1-2; Acts 1:8)
- ∞ We value the gathered fellowship of believers. (Acts 2:42-47; Colossians 3:11-17)
- ∞ We value life-long nurturing of the faith (Christian Education). (Ephesians 4:14-16; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:11-6:3; Colossians 3:11-17)
- ∞ We value the gifts of God's people as they offer them in service, both individually and corporately, to the Church and the world. (Ephesians 4:7-13; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Corinthians 12)
- ∞ We value servant leadership. (Mark 10:35-45; Acts 28:3a; Mark 9:33-37; Philippians 2:1-11; Isaiah 61:1-3; John 13:14-17; Isaiah 42:1-4)
- ∞ We value integrity. (Genesis 39:9; James 1:22-25; Psalm 78:70-72; Ephesians 4:1-2, 14-16; Ezekiel 11:16-20; Jeremiah 31)
- ∞ We value a trust in God and His people which frees us for responsible risk-taking. (Matthew 15:21-28; Genesis 18:16-33; Matthew 16:21; Acts 4:8-13)

Therefore we are committed to carry on this God-given, Spirit-driven ministry of Word and Sacrament through which He shares His love for us and empowers us to share His love with others.



**Convention Headquarters
Marriott Orlando Airport
7499 Augusta National Drive
Orlando, Florida 32822**

District President

The Reverend Gregory S. Walton
The Florida-Georgia District, LCMS
Orlando, Florida

Special Presenter

Mrs. Cindy Steinbeck, Author
Steinbeck Vineyards & Winery
Paso Robles, California

Special Guest

The Reverend Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Saint Louis, Missouri

Parliamentarian

The Reverend Pat F. A. O'Brien, Emeritus
First Lutheran Church
Clearwater, Florida

Convention Chaplain/Host Congregation

The Reverend Dr. Brian N. Kneser, Sr. Pastor
Woodlands Lutheran Church & ELC
Montverde, Florida

Judge of Elections

The Reverend William "Billy" Brath
Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church
Orlando, Florida

Convention Bible Study Leader

Dr. Kurt Senske, CEO
Lutheran Social Service of the South
Austin, Texas

Convention Manager

The Reverend James L. Guelzow, Emeritus
Messiah Lutheran Church
Tampa, Florida

Convention Essayist

The Reverend Dr. John Denninger, President
Southeastern District, LCMS
Alexandria, Virginia

Exhibit Coordinator

Ms. Emily Moss, DCE
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and School
Orlando, Florida

Synod Representative

The Reverend Dr. Robert T. Kuhn, 6th Vice President
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Oviedo, Florida

Nominations Chair

The Reverend Charles T. Reich
Grace Lutheran Church & School
Winter Haven, Florida

District Staff: The Rev. Gregory S. Walton, Mr. Mark Brink, The Rev. Douglas Kallesen, Mr. Daniel J. Reichard, Mr. John M. Elliott, Mrs. Cindy Hammerstrom, Mrs. Kathy Keene, Ms. Debra Talbot, Mrs. Lynda Voss, Mrs. Laura Zirbel.

The Florida-Georgia District, LCMS Board of Directors 2012 - 2015

The Rev. Gregory S. Walton, President	Mr. William Gaik, Region One
The Rev. David C. Brighton, 1 st Vice President	Mr. Jay Wendland, Region One
The Rev. James L. Guelzow, Chairman, 2 nd Vice President	Mr. Donald Kaufman, Region Two
The Rev. Stephen Wipperman, 3 rd Vice President	Ms. Lois Schaefer, Region Two
The Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser, 4 th Vice President	Mr. Jon Brazee, Region Three
The Rev. Dr. Frank Marshall, 5 th Vice President	Ms. Sonia Tellez, Region Three
The Rev. Jay Winters, Secretary	Ms. Beverly Nyce, Region Four
Mrs. Renee Varga, Treasurer	Mr. Jeff Richards, Region Four
Ms. Lois Ford, Commissioned Minister of Religion	Ms. Karen Smith, Region Five
Mr. Nick Moss, Commissioned Minister of Religion	Ms. Nancy Volz, Region Five
Mr. Robert Ziegler, Commissioned Minister of Religion	

Convention Nomination Committee 2012-2015

Ordained: The Rev. Gregory Michael, The Rev. Charles Reich (Chairman)
Commissioned: Mr. Jerry Bisping, Mr. John Westol
Lay: Mr. Dick Evers, Mr. Jim Ingersoll, Mrs. Ellen Jugar, Mrs. Soraya Trujillo
Advisory: The Rev. Jay Winters

District Convention Floor Committees 2015

Floor Committee 1: Leadership

Chairman: Rev. David Brighton
Members: Rev. Jay Winters
Mr. Jeff Richards
Mr. Don Kaufman
Mrs. Nancy Volz
Staff: Mr. Dan Reichard

Floor Committee 2: Congregations

Chairman: Mr. Jay Wendland
Members: Mrs. Beverly Nyce
Mr. John List
Mr. Jon Brazee
Ms. Sonia Tellez
Staff: Mr. Mark Brink

Floor Committee 3: Outreach

Chairman: Rev. Steve Wipperman
Members: Mrs. Lois Schaefer
Mrs. Eileen Bishop
Mr. Bob Ziegler
Mrs. Kathy Keene
Staff: Rev. Doug Kallesen

Floor Committee 4: Bylaws

Chairman: Mr. Bill Gaik
Members: Mr. Rusty Huseman
Mrs. Renee Varga
Staff: Mr. John Elliott

**Appointed District Reconcilers
2012 –**

Rev. Dr. T. Kent Fuqua
Hope Lutheran Church
Hudson, Florida

Rev. George Murdaugh
Oak Road Lutheran Church
Lilburn, Georgia

Mr. William Patrick
Faith Lutheran Church
Marietta, Georgia

Mr. Leonard Raschke
St Paul Lutheran Church
Lakeland, Florida

**Synod Hearing Facilitator
Florida-Georgia District**

Ms. Adrian Tocklin
Grace Lutheran Church
St Petersburg, Florida

**Ministerial Interview Committee
2012-2015**

Georgia

The Rev. Earl Steffens, Chairman
Peace Lutheran Church
Tifton, Georgia

Mr. Bill Arndt
Rivercliff Lutheran Church
Atlanta, Georgia

Mrs. Teresa Murdaugh
Oak Road Lutheran Church
Lilburn, Georgia

Mr. Dan Palisch
Saint Paul Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia

Florida

The Rev. Dr. Randy Winkel, Chairman
Lakeside Lutheran Church
Venice, Florida

Mr. Christian Rau
Grace Lutheran Church
Saint Petersburg, Florida

Mrs. Jean Roehrs
Lakeside Lutheran Church
Venice, Florida

The Rev. Warren J. Thomason
Grace Lutheran Church
St Petersburg, Florida

2015 Florida-Georgia District Convention Delegates

Title	First Name	Last Name	Congregation	City	State	Delegate Type	Region
Mr.	Marl	McCracken	Trinity	Albany	GA	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Mark	Rabe	Trinity	Albany	GA	Advisory Delegate	2
Rev.	Donald	Moore	Saint Paul	Apopka	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Ms.	Jocelyn	Moore	Saint Paul	Apopka	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	Gregory	Michael	Christus Victor	Athens	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Ms.	Kelly	Michael	Christus Victor	Athens	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	David	Heller	Trinity	Athens	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Mr.	Tony	Smith	Trinity	Athens	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Mr.	Zack	Zoeller	Grace	Atlanta	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	Joseph Choong	Song	Stepping Stone	Atlanta	GA	Advisory Delegate	1
Mr.	Peter	Shipman	Our Redeemer	Augusta	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	Scott	McLean	Christ	Avon Park	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Ms.	Linda	McLean	Christ	Avon Park	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Benjamin	Schroeder	Saint Peter's	Belle Glade	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Rev.	Dave	Wesche	All Saints	Blairsville	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Mr.	Rey	Jants	All Saints	Blairsville	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	Stephen	Carretto	Saint Paul	Boca Raton	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Mr.	John	List	Saint Paul	Boca Raton	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Craig	Mathews	Hope	Bradenton	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	Jeff	Richards	Hope	Bradenton	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Kenneth	Farnsworth	Immanuel	Brandon	FL	Advisory Delegate	4
Rev.	Paul	Meseke	Christ	Brooksville	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	Rick	Bruner	Christ	Brooksville	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Pastor Greg	Le Sieur	Christ	Cape Canaveral	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	Art	Hansen	Christ	Cape Canaveral	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	Charles	Kanefke	Trinity	Cape Coral	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	James	Krueger	Trinity	Cape Coral	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Mr.	Dennis	Melde	Savior of All	Cartersville	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	Tom	Eggebrecht	Ascension	Casselberry	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	Mike	Nowicki	Ascension	Casselberry	FL	Advisory Delegate	3
Rev.	Louis	Abel	Good Shepherd	Chiefland	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Ms.	Martha	Reaves	Good Shepherd	Chiefland	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Eric	Eichinger	Bethel	Clearwater	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	Paul	Blake	Bethel	Clearwater	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Ms.	Renaann	Apple	First	Clearwater	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Alan	Koch	Faith	Clewiston	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Mr.	Ernest	Munter	Faith	Clewiston	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Brad	Arnholt	Bethlehem	Columbus	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1

Rev.	Eric	Estes	Redeemer	Columbus	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Rev.	Albert	Matlock	Trinity	Crawfordville	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Ms.	Kathryn	Hertz	Trinity	Crawfordville	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Mr.	Stan	Engel	Living Faith	Cumming	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Title	First Name	Last Name	Congregation	City	State	Delegate Type	Region
Rev.	Wilfredo	Rivera	Trinity	Cutler Bay	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Rev.	George	Poulos, Jr.	Gloria Dei	Davie	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Ms.	Jeri	James	Gloria Dei	Davie	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Victor	Belton	Peace	Decatur	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Ms.	Alfra Dean	Fisher	Peace	Decatur	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	Daniel	Bartley	Emmanuel Haitian	Delray Beach	FL	Advisory Delegate	5
Mr.	Jenat	Papademetriou	Trinity	Delray Beach	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Kenneth	Larson	Trinity	Delray Beach	FL	Advisory Delegate	5
Rev.	George	Murdaugh	Prince of Peace	Douglasville	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Mr.	Stu	Drake	Prince of Peace	Douglasville	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Mr.	Harry	Grant	Faith	Dunedin	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Terry	McKee	Peace	Dunnellon	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Mr.	Douglas	O'Hara	Peace	Dunnellon	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Andrew	Schroeder	Lake Oconee	Eatonton	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Mr.	David	Ringer	Lake Oconee	Eatonton	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	Carol	Schroeder	Lake Oconee	Eatonton	GA	Advisory Delegate	1
Rev.	James	Kress, Sr.	Redeemer	Englewood	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	Bill	Bowers, Sr.	Redeemer	Englewood	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Marc	Kappel	Faith	Eustis	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	Jeff	Albright	Faith	Eustis	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Ms.	Lois	Ford	Faith	Eustis	FL	Advisory Delegate	3
Mr.	Larry	Annis	Shepherd of the Coast	Fort Lauderdale	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Stephen	Reynolds	Shepherd of the Coast	Fort Lauderdale	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Rev.	Darrell	Stuehrenberg	Bethlehem	Fort Myers	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	Roger	Lewandowski	Bethlehem	Fort Myers	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Jon	Zehnder	Saint Michael	Fort Myers	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	Darryl	Bell	Saint Michael	Fort Myers	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Curtis	Deterding	Zion	Fort Myers	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	Tom	Cioper	Zion	Fort Myers	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Craig	Bode	Trinity	Fort Pierce	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Ms.	Mary	Bode	Trinity	Fort Pierce	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Alan	Struckmeyer	Abiding Savior	Gainesville	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	Charles	Moss	Abiding Savior	Gainesville	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	Zachary	Hoffman	Good Shepherd	Gainesville	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Ms.	Tracilyn	Hoffman	Good Shepherd	Gainesville	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	John	Glover	First	Gainesville	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3

Ms.	Roberta	Partridge	First	Gainesville	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	Larry	Townsend	Christ Our Savior	Griffin	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Mr.	Mickey	Nichols	Christ Our Savior	Griffin	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	Edward	Scott	Bethel	Hobe Sound	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Ms.	Claudette	Scott	Bethel	Hobe Sound	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Rev. T. Kent	Fuqua	Hope	Hudson	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Title	First Name	Last Name	Congregation	City	State	Delegate Type	Region
Mr.	Steve	Denney	Hope	Hudson	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Thomas	Beaverson	First	Inverness	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Ms.	Debbie	Reilly	First	Inverness	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Frank	Marshall	Emeritus	Jacksonville	FL	Advisory Delegate	2
Rev.	Jeffrey	Skopak	Grace	Jacksonville	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Mr.	Rich	Korman	Grace	Jacksonville	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Patrick	McKenzie	Hope	Jacksonville	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Mr.	Ronald K.	Charlton	Hope	Jacksonville	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Mr.	Terry	Brown	Our Redeemer	Jacksonville	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	James	Wiggins	Saint Paul	Jacksonville	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Ms.	Loretta	Wiggins	Saint Paul	Jacksonville	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Dana	Brones	Bethlehem	Jacksonville Beach	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Mr.	Alex	Limbaugh	Bethlehem	Jacksonville Beach	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Ray	Borchelt	Living Hope	Kennesaw	GA	Advisory Delegate	1
Rev.	Gary	Faith	Grace	Key West	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Mr.	Don	Bly	Grace	Key West	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Joel	Meyer	Holy Trinity	Kingsland	GA	Pastoral Delegate	2
Mr.	Jerry	Haack	Holy Trinity	Kingsland	GA	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Richard	Norris	Trinity	Lake Placid	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Mr.	Robert	Sesko	Trinity	Lake Placid	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	James	Weist	Epiphany	Lake Worth	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Mr.	Robert	Sander	Epiphany	Lake Worth	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Steve	Wipperman	Our Savior	Lake Worth	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Mr.	Bill	Simms	Our Savior	Lake Worth	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Scott	Gress	Our Savior	Lake Worth	FL	Advisory Delegate	5
Rev.	Elie	Louissant	Salem Haitian	Lake Worth		Advisory Delegate	5
Rev.	Tom	Block	Christ	Lakeland	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	James	Carnicelli	Christ	Lakeland	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	Ronald	Pennekamp	Saint Paul	Lakeland	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	Nick	Moss	St. Paul	Lakeland	FL	Advisory Delegate	3
Mr.	Kevin	Brickey	Saint Paul	Lakeland	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Mr.	Michael	Iley	Christ The King	Largo	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Stephen	Lane	Faith	Lecanto	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Mr.	Wellington	Bibby	Beautiful Savior	Lehigh Acres	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Juan A.	Gonzalez	Beautiful Savior	Lehigh Acres	FL	Advisory Delegate	4

Rev.	Scott	Holder	Oak Road	Lilburn	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Mr.	Carl	Lieberman	Oak Road	Lilburn	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	Edwin	Harkey	Holy Trinity	Lutz	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	Les	Hoffman	Holy Trinity	Lutz	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Kevin	Koenig	Marco	Marco Island	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Ms.	Beverly	Nyce	Marco	Marco Island	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Carl	Schneider	Faith	Marietta	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Title	First Name	Last Name	Congregation	City	State	Delegate Type	Region
Rev.	David	Brockhoff	Holy Trinity	Masaryktown	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Ms.	Bonnie	Brockhoff	Holy Trinity	Masaryktown	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Craig	Boehlke	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	Melbourne	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	Richard	Swansen	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	Melbourne	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	Russell	Frahm	Faith	Merritt Island	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	Fred	Doctor	Faith	Merritt Island	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	Erwin	Perez-Arche	Bay Shore	Miami	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Ms.	Rosie	Gordon-Wallace	Bay Shore	Miami	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Alan	Sielk	Saint Paul	Miami	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Mr.	Miguel	Parages	Saint Paul	Miami	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Mr.	Dale	Robinson	San Pablo Apostol	Miami	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Ross	Engel	Saint Peter's	Middleburg	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Mr.	Stephen	Bradfield	Saint Peter's	Middleburg	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Kevin	Ogle	Messiah	Miramar	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Mr.	Matt	Hardy	Messiah	Miramar	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Brian	Kneser	Woodlands	Montverde	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	Chris	Hopkins	Woodlands	Montverde	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	Keith	Lingsch	Grace	Naples	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	Stephen	Beights	Grace	Naples	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Dennis	Liebich	Peace	Naples	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	Mark	Greul	Peace	Naples	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Thomas	Wenndt	Faith	New Port Richey	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	Jerry	Brock	Faith	New Port Richey	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Ken	Fuehler	Faith	No. Palm Beach	FL	Pastoral Delegate	
Ms.	Debra	Weier	Faith	No. Palm Beach	FL	Lay Delegate	
Rev.	Jerrald	Lawson	Good Shepherd	North Fort Myers	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4

Mr.	George	Walker	Good Shepherd	North Fort Myers	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Mr.	David	McLeod	Holy Cross	North Miami	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Dennis	Bartels	Holy Cross	North Miami	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Rev.	Joe	Adams	Our Redeemer	Ocala	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Mr.	Alan	Simpkins	Our Redeemer	Ocala	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Ronald	Mueller	Saint John	Ocala	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Mr.	Donald	Kaufman	Saint John	Ocala	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Kenneth	Schamens	Saint John	Ocala	FL	Advisory Delegate	2
Rev.	John	Hlrst	Peace	Okeechobee	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Ms.	Gloria	Lighty	Peace	Okeechobee	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Gerald	Schultz	Christ the King	Orlando	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Rev.	Doug	Kallesen	FLGA District	Orlando	FL	Advisory Delegate	3
Rev.	Greg	Walton	FLGA District	Orlando	FL	Advisory Delegate	3
Mr.	Mark	Brink	FLGA District	Orlando	FL	Advisory Delegate	3

Title	First Name	Last Name	Congregation	City	State	Delegate Type	Region
Rev.	Paul	vonWerder	Hope	Orlando	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	Emile	Mohabir	Hope	Orlando	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	John	Rallison	Journey of Life	Orlando	FL	Advisory Delegate	3
Rev.	yes	Green	Prince of Peace	Orlando	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Ms.	Katie	Abercrombie	Prince of Peace	Orlando	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	Bruce	Lieske	Prince of Peace	Orlando	FL	Advisory Delegate	3
Ms.	Emily	Moss	Prince of Peace	Orlando	FL	Advisory Delegate	3
Rev.	Billy	Brath	Trinity	Orlando	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	Ted	Lange	Trinity	Orlando	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	James	Rockey	Amazing Grace	Oxford	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Ms.	Wanda	Pierce	Amazing Grace	Oxford	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Gary	Held	Risen Savior	Palm Bay	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	Fred	Anderson	Risen Savior	Palm Bay	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Ms.	Lois	Diebel	Risen Savior	Palm Bay	FL	Advisory Delegate	3
Mr.	Ronald	DeKarske	Faith	Parrish	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Paul	Stark	Saint Paul	Peachtree City	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Ms.	Linda	Stark	Saint Paul	Peachtree City	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Mr.	Jim	Richards	Saint Paul	Peachtree City	GA	Advisory Delegate	1
Rev.	John	Lehenbauer	Christ	Perry	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Mr.	Craig	Howell	Christ	Perry	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	Dean	Pfeffer	Hope	Plant City	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Ms.	Liz	Pfeffer	Hope	Plant City	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	Alston	Kirk	Our Savior	Plantation	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Mr.	Willam	May	Our Savior	Plantation	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Kenneth	Redmann	Lutheran Church of the Cross	Port Charlotte	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4

Mr.	Mark	Polzin	Lutheran Church of the Cross	Port Charlotte	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Mr.	Kevin	Garbers	Grace	Port Saint Lucie	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Gene	Johnson	Grace	Port St Lucie	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Rev.	Dana	Narring	Faith	Punta Gorda	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Rev.	Kevin	Yoakum	Christ the King	Riverview	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	Rick	McDill	Christ the King	Riverview	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Michael	Hageman	Trinity	Rockledge	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	David	Crockett	Trinity	Rockledge	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	John	Karch	Holy Trinity	Rome	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Mr.	Bryan	Shealy	Holy Trinity	Rome	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	Jared	Hartman	Grace	Saint Petersburg	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	Leroy	Bierbower	Grace	Saint Petersburg	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Paul	Burtzloff	Our Savior	Saint Petersburg	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4

Title	First Name	Last Name	Congregation	City	State	Delegate Type	Region
Ms.	Cassandra	Moore	Our Savior	Saint Petersburg	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Tyler	Moore	Our Savior	Saint Petersburg	FL	Advisory Delegate	4
Rev.	Jeffrey	Jordan	Rivercliff	Sandy Springs	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Mr.	Steve	Frerking	Rivercliff	Sandy Springs	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	Edward	DeWitt	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	Sanford	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	Joe	Brooks	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	Sanford	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	Rossetter	Leavitt	Beautiful Savior	Sarasota	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Ms.	Joyce	Brown	Beautiful Savior	Sarasota	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Mr.	Andrew	Kenney	Concordia	Sarasota	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Steven	Anderson	Good Shepherd	Sarasota	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	Bob	Barber	Good Shepherd	Sarasota	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Theodore	Hanus	Good Shepherd	Sarasota	FL	Advisory Delegate	4
Rev.	John	Hopkins	Trinity	Savannah	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Mr.	James	Aberson	Trinity	Savannah	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	Robert	Maulella	Faith	Sebring	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Mr.	Robert	Brumfield	Faith	Sebring	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Albert S.	Oren	Christ Our Savior	St. Augustine	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Mr.	Larry	Mull	Christ Our Savior	St. Augustine	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Mr.	David	Brueggemann	Grace	St. Cloud	FL	Lay Delegate	3

Rev.	James	Bollhagen	Grace	St. Cloud	FL	Advisory Delegate	3
Rev.	Samual	Clay	St. Paul	Statesboro	GA	Pastoral Delegate	2
Rev.	Khampheuy	Munnicha	Holy Cross	Stockbridge	GA	Pastoral Delegate	2
Mr.	Larry	Weege	Holy Cross	Stockbridge	GA	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	George	Earhart	Lord of Life	Stockbridge	GA	Pastoral Delegate	2
Mr.	Larry	Spinks	Lord of Life	Stockbridge	GA	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Wilton	Heyliger	Incarnate Word	Stone Mountain	GA	Advisory Delegate	2
Rev.	Brian	Gauthier	Redeemer	Stuart	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Mr.	Jack	Gebhardt	Redeemer	Stuart	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Daniel	Kelm	Trinity	Summerfield	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Mr.	Paul	Stieber	Trinity	Summerfield	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Mark	Schulz	Epiphany	Tallahassee	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Mr.	Richard	Boyd	Epiphany	Tallahassee	FL	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Jay	Winters	University Lutheran	Tallahassee	FL	Pastoral Delegate	2
Mr.	Erich	Borgstede	Holy Trinity	Tampa	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Mr.	Richard	Larson	Messiah	Tampa	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Jim	Guelzow	Messiah	Tampa	FL	Advisory Delegate	4
Rev.	Miguel	Sanabria	Messiah Hispanic	Tampa	FL	Advisory Delegate	4
Ms.	Flor	Sanabria	Messiah Hispanic	Tampa	FL	Advisory Delegate	4
Mr.	Will	Parham, Jr,	Zion	Tampa	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Pat	O'Brien	Zion	Tampa	FL	Advisory Delegate	4

Title	First Name	Last Name	Congregation	City	State	Delegate Type	Region
Rev.	Bruce	Alberts	Good Shepherd	Titusville	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Rev.	David	Kehret	Trinity	Toccoa	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Mr.	William	Gaik	Trinity	Toccoa	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	Marc	Nauman	Trinity	Trinity	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	John	Dupps	Trinity	Trinity	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Rev.	Hiruy	Gebremichael	Saint Mark	Tucker	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Mr.	George	Hamby	Saint Mark	Tucker	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Mr.	Marion (Joe)	Mitchell	Messiah	Valdosta	GA	Lay Delegate	2
Rev.	Randy	Winkel	Lakeside	Venice	FL	Pastoral Delegate	4
Mr.	Rich	Vaccaro	Lakeside	Venice	FL	Lay Delegate	4
Mr.	Welsey	Borucki	Redeemer	W. Palm Beach	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Daniel	McPherson	Redeemer	W. Palm Beach	FL	Advisory Delegate	5
Rev.	David	Brighton	Mt. Calvary	Warner Robins	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Mr.	Kenneth	Keyes	Mt. Calvary	Warner Robins	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	Bruce	Sommerfield	Peace Valley	Wauchula	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5

Ms.	Kathleen	Roehm	Peace Valley	Wauchula	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Timothy	Hartner	Saint Paul	Weston	FL	Pastoral Delegate	5
Mr.	Chris	Seruga	Saint Paul	Weston	FL	Lay Delegate	5
Rev.	Roberto	Rojas	Zion New Life	Winter Garden	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	Jeff	Studt	Zion New Life	Winter Garden	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	Charles	Reich	Grace	Winter Haven	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Mr.	Jesse	Douthit	Grace	Winter Haven	FL	Lay Delegate	3
Rev.	Jonathan	Frusti	Grace	Winter Haven	FL	Advisory Delegate	3
Rev.	Kermit	Rickenberg	Grace	Winter Haven	FL	Advisory Delegate	3
Rev.	Stephen	Constien	Timothy	Woodstock	GA	Pastoral Delegate	1
Mr.	Carl	Lane	Timothy	Woodstock	GA	Lay Delegate	1
Rev.	Tod	Shouse	Our Savior	Zephyrhills	FL	Pastoral Delegate	3
Ms.	Eugenia	Kolasinski	Our Savior	Zephyrhills	FL	Lay Delegate	3

End of Delegates

CONVENTION SCHEDULE
Engaged in the Master's Business

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2015

12:00 p.m.	Registration Opens Exhibits Open
1:00 p.m.	Floor Committee Meetings
2:30 p.m.	Open Hearings – Floor Committees
5:00 p.m.	Registration and Exhibits Close Dinner on your own
6:00 p.m.	Opening Worship
6:40 p.m.	Session I Standing Rules, President's Report Elections Bible Study I –Dr. Kurt Senske
7:45 p.m.	Break
8:00 p.m.	<i>Doulos tou Christo</i> Award – Lay Person
8:10 p.m.	Essay Presentation I – The Rev. Dr. John Denninger
9:00 p.m.	President's Reception – hosted by Lutheran Church Extension Fund

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2015

8:00 a.m.	Opening Devotion – Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser Exhibits Open
8:15 a.m.	Session II Elections Bible Study II – Dr. Kurt Senske Additional Presentations
10:00 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m.	Ingathering Presentations Missions & Outreach
12:00 p.m.	Lunch – hosted by Thrivent

Saturday, June 13, 2015, cont.

1:00 p.m.	Session III	Special Presentation – Ms. Cindy Steinbeck Elections
3:05 p.m.		Break
3:20 p.m.		School & Youth Ministries <i>Doulos tou Christo</i> Award – Commissioned Minister of Religion Regional Elections Report from Synod Representative– The Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn
5:45 p.m.		Exhibits Close
6:00 p.m.		Dinner on your own

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2015

8:00 a.m.		Convention Worship with Holy Communion, President Gregory Walton preaching
9:00 a.m.	Session IV	Question and Answer with President Matthew Harrison Treasurer's Report Stewardship
9:50 a.m.		Break <i>Doulos tou Christo</i> Award – Ordained Minister Essay Presentation II – The Rev. Dr. John Denninger
10:35 a.m.		Lutheran Church Extension Fund Unfinished Convention Business
12:00 p.m.		Installation of newly elected officers
12:30 p.m.		Adjournment

***Adjustments may be made in the schedule to accommodate convention business.**

**MINUTES OF THE 32nd REGULAR CONVENTION
FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD**

**Orlando, Florida
JUNE 12 to 14, 2015**

SESSION I—FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2015

INTRODUCTIONS

President Gregory Walton introduced the start of the convention with a video presentation. President Walton shared the Scripture of Hebrews 12:2, with an encouragement to remember these words of Scripture throughout the Convention.

President Walton then introduced several guests who would be serving the convention, including Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn, 6th Vice President of Synod who was present to preach at worship; President Matthew Harrison who was present to address the convention and share in a time of questions and answers; Rev. Dr. John Denninger who was present as the convention essayist; Dr. Kurt Senske who was present to lead Bible study; and Ms. Cindy Steinbeck who was present for a special session.

Lastly, President Walton introduced Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser, 4th Vice President of the Florida-Georgia District, who served the convention as chaplain. President Walton then invited Rev. Dr. Kneser and Rev. Dr. Kuhn to the stage to lead worship.

OPENING WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser led the convention in opening worship, with First Vice President David Brighton giving the message.

OPENING THANKS

President Walton thanked Rev. Dr. Kuhn and Rev. Dr. Kneser for leading the convention in worship. He additionally thanked Rev. Jim Guelzow for serving as Convention Chairman and Kathy Keene for serving as Convention Coordinator. President Walton then invited forward the District staff to be recognized by the Convention. Additionally, President Walton thanked Rev. Jay Winters for serving as District Secretary, Rev. Pat O'Brien for serving as parliamentarian, and all those who have been a part of floor committees, nominating committees, and all others who made the Convention possible. Lastly, President Walton introduced Rev. Billy Brath as judge of elections with Mr. John Elliott who assisted with elections.

PARLIAMENTARY MATTERS

Rev. Pat O'Brien was invited forward to share the primer on parliamentary procedure including the standing rules to be adopted by the Convention, which were found on page nine of the Convention Workbook.

Rev. Jim Guelzow was invited forward to give a report on the registration of the Convention. Rev. Guelzow moved that this report form the voting body of the Convention, establishing quorum. This motion was seconded and was passed. Quorum was established and the voting body was formed by all registered attendees. (Total including late attendees were: Pastors - 129; Lay -114; Total - 239)

OPENING OF THE CONVENTION

President Walton opened the 32nd Convention of the FL-GA District in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit at 6:51pm.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Rev. Guelzow introduced the proposed Convention schedule on pages 2 and 3 of the Convention workbook.

Rev. Guelzow moved that the Convention schedule be adopted. This motion was seconded and passed.

STANDING RULES

Rev. Guelzow moved that the assembly accept the standing rules as read earlier by Rev. O'Brien. This motion was seconded and passed.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

President Walton invited forward Rev. Charles Reich, the chairman of the nominations committee. Rev. Reich introduced the nominations committee and explained the rules concerning nominations, including how to make a nomination from the floor and which positions were eligible for nominations from the floor.

REGIONAL CAUCUSES

President Walton shared that as a result of action at the 2012 Convention of the Florida-Georgia District, the regional officers for the Board of Directors are to be elected in regional caucuses. These regional caucuses were convened at 6:58pm.

VOTING PROCESS

President Walton invited Rev. Billy Brath, Judge of Elections, to the stage in order to share about the voting process, including the use of electronic voting, and to have a practice vote.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Walton invited Rev. David Brighton, the first Vice-President of the Florida-Georgia District, to chair the Convention while President Walton gave his report.

President Walton shared his report with the Convention, noting especially the theme of the Convention, "Engaged in the Master's Business," as a way in which the Florida-Georgia District can see itself.

President Walton shared that the critical targets of Leadership, Congregations, and Outreach continue to be the critical targets of the Florida-Georgia District. Looking ahead to the next triennium, President Walton shared a vision that the Florida-Georgia District would place a special emphasis on the critical target of Outreach.

President Walton affirmed that the vision of the District would remain the same: "Equipped, Empowered, and Engaged - Connecting people to Jesus", and how this vision has challenges and opportunities.

President Walton also shared that since the past Convention, the Florida-Georgia District has managed to work its way out of debt, even with a struggling economy. All special accounts are now fully funded.

President Walton's report concluded by giving thanks for the many people in the District congregations who have made the strides of the District possible.

ELECTION OF DISTRICT PRESIDENT

The acting chairman, Rev. David Brighton, reported that President Walton was the only name on the ballot nominated for District President and called for a vote of acclamation by the convention, by round of applause. The convention delegates rose to their feet and declared President Walton reelected.

RATIFICATION OF REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT ELECTIONS

President Walton received the gavel back in order to chair the Convention once again, calling forward

Rev. Charles Reich, Chair of the Nominations Committee to report on the Regional Caucuses voting on the positions of Regional Vice President. The following were elected by their regional caucuses:

Region 1 Vice President - Rev. David Brighton
Region 2 Vice President - Rev. Frank Marshall
Region 3 Vice President - Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser
Region 4 Vice President - Rev. Jon Zehnder
Region 5 Vice President - Rev. Steven Wipperman

Rev. Billy Brath, the Judge of Elections, moved that the candidates elected by their regional caucuses be accepted and ratified by acclamation by rising to their feet and singing the common doxology. The Convention rose to their feet and sang the common doxology, ratifying the elected Regional Vice Presidents.

RANKING OF THE VICE PRESIDENTS

As the Vice Presidential Candidates were ratified, Rev. Brath moved that the Vice Presidents be ranked. The Convention ranked the Vice Presidents in the following order, with the following percentages of the vote:

1st Vice President - Rev. David Brighton - 64.2% (131 votes)
2nd Vice President - Rev. Jon Zehnder - 44.1% (90 votes)
3rd Vice President - Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser - 39.2% (80 votes)
4th Vice President - Rev. Steve Wipperman - 26% (53 votes)
5th Vice President - Rev. Frank Marshall - 18.1% (37 votes)

BIBLE STUDY

The chair invited forward Dr. Kurt Senske, who serves as President and CEO of "Upbring" (formerly "Lutheran Social Services of the South"), to lead the Convention in a Bible study which hinged on the work from his book "The Calling".

Doulos tou Christo Award - Commissioned

Mr. Mark Brink was called forward to present the Doulos tou Christo award for Commissioned workers to Ms. Lois Ford of Eustis, Florida.

Greetings from the Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA

Bishop Schaefer of the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America brought greetings to the convention from his church body.

Essayist - Dr. John Denninger

Dr. John Denninger, President of the Southeastern District of the LCMS was brought forward to share his first essay of the convention, on what it means for a District to be engaged in the Masters' Business.

Closing Prayer

Dr. Brian Kneser led the convention in a closing prayer at 9:33pm, halting the business of the convention until the following day.

Session III - Saturday, June 13, 2015

Opening Devotion

Dr. Kneser, acting as chaplain to the convention, began with an opening devotion using texting as the major metaphor at 8:05am.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:23am by First Vice President, Rev. David Brighton.

Ratification of Regional Lay Representatives

The results of the election Regional Lay Representatives by their Regional Caucuses the night before were announced. (Listed below)

- Region 1
 - Robert Chambers
 - Jay Wendland
- Region 2
 - Donald Kaufman
 - Lois Schaefer
- Region 3
 - Tom Reagin
 - Katie Abercrombie
- Region 4
 - Beverly Nyce
 - Jeff Richards
- Region 5
 - Karen Smith
 - Samuel Luddington

The chair called for a motion for this election to be ratified by the Convention. Moved. Seconded. Passed.

YES - 99.5% (199 votes)

NO - 0.5% (1 vote)

Bible Study

Dr. Senske was called back to the podium to continue the convention Bible Study hinging on his book "Wine and the Word".

Leadership Floor Committee 1

Rev. Jay Winters was called forward to share the prepared resolutions of Floor Committee 1, on Leadership.

RESOLUTION 2015: L1.1, To Support the Laity of the Church Through Prayers and Opportunities for Enrichment in Ministry, was moved by floor committee 1 for adoption.

To Support the Laity of the Church Through Prayer And Opportunities for Enrichment in Ministry
Whereas, congregations employ the Laity of the Church in various aspects of their ministries; and
Whereas, the laity of the Church are called upon to fulfill a vast array of responsibilities that comprise the ministry of the Church; and
Whereas, the laity of the Church join rostered workers in sacrificing for the sake of the Gospel; therefore be it Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District develop opportunities for the Laity to grow in the ministries in which they serve; and be it further
Resolved, that congregations encourage participation of the Laity in such opportunities for personal growth; and be it finally
Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District in convention give thanks to God for the gifts of those who so faithfully serve Him.

YES – 97.5% (199 votes)

NO – 2.5% (5 votes)

RESOLUTION 2015: L1.1 WAS ADOPTED.

RESOLUTION 2015: L1.2, To Train Circuit Peacemakers, was moved by floor committee 1 for adoption.

To Train Circuit Peacemakers

Whereas, Scripture (1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:3-6; John 17:22-23) calls for us to walk together in faith, peace and unity; and

Whereas, we are yet sinners and at times find ourselves in conflict with one another; and

Whereas, such conflict is detrimental to our witness, our unity, and our work together in the Kingdom; and

Whereas, Synod Bylaw 1.10.10 established four (4) District Reconcilers per District to implement the formal Dispute Resolution Process, as well as serving as peacemakers in the early, often crucial, informal stages of the process; and

Whereas, the duties of Circuit Visitors outlined in Synod Bylaw 5.2.3 include strengthening the spirit of cooperation among pastors, commissioned ministers, and congregations and, when, requested to do so by the District President, serving as a mediator to effect reconciliation of disputes within the circuit not under the Dispute Resolution Process; and

Whereas, as a result of the above, Circuit Visitors often find themselves working alone in difficult situations calling for peacemaking skills for which they have received little training; and

Whereas, difficult situations calling for peacemaking skills are often better addressed early on by a team approach of a Circuit Visitor working with a trained assistant peacemaker; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Synod in Convention affirm the importance and witness of Christian peacemaking and the blessed work of District Reconciler and Circuit Visitors: and be it further

Resolved, that the Synod in Convention encourage Circuit Visitors to take advantage of the opportunity provided in Synod Bylaw 5.2.1(c) to "appoint from member congregations of the circuit, with the approval of the District President, pastors, teachers, or lay persons to assist him in fulfilling his responsibilities"; and be it finally Resolved, that the appropriate Synod agency be directed to develop and administer through the District Reconcilers a training program specifically directed toward these Circuit Visitors and their appointed assistants to adequately prepare them for this important work.

YES – 93.2% (191 votes)

NO – 6.8% (14 votes)

RESOLUTION 2015: L1.2 was adopted.

RESOLUTION 2015: L1.3, To Support the Establishment of a New Collaborative Lay Deacon Program, was moved by floor committee 1 for adoption.

To Support the Establishment of a New Collaborative Lay Deacon Program

Whereas, educated laity are a gift to the Church; and

Whereas individual districts have their own lay leadership or Certified/Licensed Lay Deacon training programs; and

Whereas, trained lay leaders or Certified/Licensed Lay Deacons are currently serving in a variety of ministries with our district; and

Whereas, currently those enrolled work through the Mission Training Center in Portland, OR; and

Whereas, mobility between districts has made it desirable to maintain a roster of trained lay leaders or Certified/Licensed Lay Deacon; and

Whereas, Concordia College-New York is our regional college of the Concordia University System for the Atlantic, Eastern, Florida-Georgia, New England, New Jersey and Southeastern Districts, known as the East Coast Common Endeavor (ECCE); and Whereas, Concordia College-New York desires to assist ECCE by training lay

leaders or Certified/Licensed Lay Deacons and facilitating collaborative regional partnerships between districts in lay leadership or Certified/Licensed Lay Deacon programs; and

Whereas, a collaborative lay leadership or Certified/Licensed Lay Deacon training program provides a standardized lay leadership curriculum and greater resources to facilitate the educational program; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District affirm its support for lay leadership or Certified/Licensed Lay Deacon programs as a gift to the Church; and be it further

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District express its support for Concordia College-New York's new lay leadership or Certified/Licensed Lay Deacon program as a collaborative means of raising up new lay leaders for service in the Church; and be it further

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District encourage its member congregations to participate in Concordia College--New York's lay leadership or Certified/Licensed Lay Deacon program; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District participate in the maintaining of a roster of our lay leaders or Certified/Licensed Lay Deacon, with the other ECCE districts.

Discussion: Discussion around the current use of the Lay Deacon Program led to a motion to table the vote on this resolution.

Motion to table the resolution. Seconded.

YES - 51.9% (109 votes)

NO - 48.1% (101 votes)

Resolution L1.3 was tabled.

RESOLUTION 2015: L1.4, To Have Each Region of the LCMS Elect Their Regional Vice President, was moved by floor committee 1 for adoption.

To Elect Regional Vice Presidents within Regions Themselves

Whereas, a "Region" as defined by the Bylaws of Synod (Bylaw 1.2.1.r) is a division of Synod for the purpose of regional elections; and

Whereas, currently all "voting delegates to the national convention" are "entitled to vote for one of the candidates for each region," (Bylaw 3.12.2.7.e); and

Whereas, the size and number of delegates sent to the National Convention may differ from region to region, creating unequal voting constituencies; and

Whereas, the members of a region have a vested interest in the election of their own regional vice president for the purpose of being represented properly at the national level; and

Whereas, the members of another region may not have clarity about the issues faced by that region; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS (hereafter "District") be encouraged to send an overture to the 2016 National Convention encouraging the election of Regional Vice Presidents by members of the regions they represent.

Discussion: Discussion was largely in favor of the resolution, including testimony from previous delegates to the National Convention who were able to vote on regions that were not their own.

YES - 96.2% (205 votes)

NO - 3.8% (8 votes)

Resolution L1.4 passed.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee had been asked to recommend changes to the Bylaws of the District. Any proposed changes need to go before Synod to be approved by the Commission on Constitution as well as the Congregations of the District before they are to be voted upon. The Governance Committee could not meet the necessary prerequisites, and therefore could not bring any changes to the Bylaws to the Convention at the time of the Convention. The Governance Committee, however, may plan to ask the delegates to vote via electronic means later during their three-year term as delegates of the District Convention.

Concordia University - Texas

Dr. Kieschnick brought greetings from Concordia University, Austin TX.

LWML - FLGA District

Mrs. Bunnie Koelsch, President, was brought forward to bring greetings from the Florida-Georgia District, LWML.

Lutheran Laymen's League

Mr. Ed Wright was brought forward to bring greetings from the Lutheran Laymen's League.

St. Martin of Tours Award

Chaplain Craig Muehler, Director of the Ministry to the Armed Forces, was brought forward to present the silver medal of St. Martin of Tours to Rev. Chaplain Mark J. Schreiber. Along with a presentation about Operation Barnabus.

Congregation Floor Committee 2

Congregation Floor Committee was brought forward to present Resolution C2.01

Resolution 2015:C2.01 was moved by floor committee 2 for adoption.

To Establish an Operation Barnabas Task Force and to Encourage Circuit and Congregational Support and Participation

Whereas, United States Armed Forces continue to serve around the world, and many of these service members are on their second and third deployment, at times in very dangerous settings; and

Whereas, the stress of deployments in a war zone is tremendous, not only on the service member but also their families; and

Whereas, numerous military veterans continue to be impacted by their service to our nation; and

Whereas, most communities in the Florida-Georgia District have families that are impacted by the service of a veteran or a loved one in the military; and

Whereas, our Lord calls upon His people to love their neighbor; and

Whereas, Operation Barnabas is a Lutheran outreach to our military and their families, and embodies the threefold emphasis of witness, service, and life together of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; and

Whereas, a number of congregations within Florida-Georgia District have already established or are in the process of establishing Operation Barnabas Chapters; therefore be it

Resolved, that congregations be encouraged to pray for all our service members and their families; and be it further

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District, meeting in convention, urge congregations to make use of resources from Ministry to the Armed Forces and Operation Barnabas that provide training, as well as numerous other resources to provide care and support to our veterans and their families; and be it further

Resolved, that the members of the Florida-Georgia District, be encouraged to support the efforts of this ministry with our time, talents, treasures and prayer; and be it further

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District establish and fund a Task Force to provide training and resourcing to our congregations in military ministry for the support of Operation Barnabas and outreach to military families; and be it further

Resolved, that every congregation in the Florida-Georgia District be encouraged to designate an Operation Barnabas representative to receive information from the Florida-Georgia District Operation Barnabas Task Force; and be it finally

Resolved, that each circuit in the Florida-Georgia District be encouraged to designate an Operation Barnabas representative to communicate to circuit pastors information received from the Florida-Georgia District Operation Barnabas Task Force.

YES - 99.5% (196 votes)

NO - 0.5% (1 vote)

Resolution C2.01 passed.

Outreach Report

Rev. Douglas Kalleisen was invited by the chair to bring the Outreach Report, identifying several things that have happened in the District in the past triennium, including church plant progress.

Installation of Pastor Brath

Rev. Billy Brath was installed as pastor of Live UCF, a campus ministry outreach of the Florida-Georgia District.

Lutheran World Relief

The Rev. Jon Diefenthaler shared about Lutheran World Relief.

Mission: Haiti

Mrs. Helen Roenfeldt, Mission and Project Director, shared about Mission: Haiti.

Lutheran Institute of Southeast Asia

The Rev. Gregory Michael, in place of Rev. Gerhard Michael, shared about LISA.

Lutheran Hour Ministries

Rev. Mark Frith, Program Director, shared about Lutheran Hour Ministries, specifically the Outreach Initiative, and greetings from the staff of Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Thrivent

Mr. Tom Reagin shared greetings from Thrivent Financial.

Lunch

Chaplain of the Convention, Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser led the Convention in prayer before adjourning for lunch at 12:02pm.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:07pm by President Walton. The minutes of the Convention so far were presented by Secretary Winters, which were adopted with no changes.

Doulos tou Christo Award - Lay

The Doulos Tou Christou for laypeople award was presented to Mr. William Gaik for his devoted service to the District in a variety of ways, including his work on the District Board of Directors.

Outreach Floor Committee 3

Rev. Steven Wipperman, Chair of the Floor Committee on Outreach was brought forward to present the resolutions of that Floor Committee.

Resolution 2015: O3.01 - To Affirm Our Outreach Initiative was moved by floor committee 3 for adoption.

To Affirm Our Outreach Initiative

Whereas, our Lord has commissioned and compelled us to, “go and to make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them.” Matthew 28:19; and

Whereas, our Lord instructed the disciples to, “go to Jerusalem, Samaria and to the farthest ends of the earth”; and

Whereas, the states of Florida and Georgia continue to grow in population, now reaching nearly 30 million people; and

Whereas, we live in a culture where fewer than 1 in 5 attend worship on any given week; and

Whereas, our beloved Synod is losing more than 30,000 souls annually and our District is also experiencing a decline in membership; and

Whereas, the FLGA District Board of Directors have affirmed the following goals;

- 3500 new believers annually will be added to our ministries across the FLGA District (child baptisms, adult confirmations and professions of faith)

- 50% of our congregations will experience an increase in worship

- 50% of our congregations will engage more people in bible study; therefore it be

Resolved, that The Florida-Georgia District in convention affirm these goals in pursuit of our Lord’s sending of His Church to reach a lost and dying world. Matt. 28:19-20; and be it further

Resolved, that congregations and schools of the Florida-Georgia District be strongly encouraged to develop outreach plans for their ministry over the next year and begin to implement them by or before June 2016; and be it further

Resolved, that materials from the Outreach Initiative be used to train, equip and empower our laity and church professionals across our District; and be it further

Resolved, that Lutheran Hour Ministry and the Florida-Georgia District will develop a simple reporting system to enable congregations and schools of the District to report outreach progress regularly; and be it finally

Resolved, that congregations and schools be encouraged to enhance their culture of outreach, connect consistently with those who are prospective members and begin one new ministry by June 2016 that focuses on meeting a need of their community.

YES - 95.5% (192 votes)

NO - 4.5% (9 votes)

Resolution O3:01 passed.

Resolution O3.2 -Culture in the Church - was moved by floor committee 1 for adoption.

Culture In The Church

Whereas, the Lord calls out and sets apart His people to be the Church (Ekklesia) in the midst of the world and releases them to live out their Baptismal lives every day through their various vocations, “engaging them in the Master’s Business,” Luke 19:11. In our baptisms we are united unto Christ’s death, burial and resurrection, we are raised to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4) and now we are new creations 2 Corinthians 5:27ff and are created in Christ Jesus for good works Ephesians 2:10; and

Whereas, Christ calls His Church to be the “light of the world” (Matthew 5:14) and, through His Word, commissions us to “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16); and

Whereas, the Church is called to build itself up in love as it receives God's grace through Word and Sacrament, knowing that, "Jesus alone has the Words of eternal life," John 6:68, Ps.119:105, and "baptism now does save you," Titus 3:5, and the Lord Himself offers us forgiveness of sins as He offers us His body and blood in, with and under the forms of bread and wine. Matthew 26:28; and

Whereas, the world continues to be a dark place where the evil one prowls to deceive believers calling him a "roaring lion," 1 Peter 5, so that it appears with earthly eyes that God's kingdom and reign are diminishing. We live in a culture which has moved farther and farther away from its Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier; and Whereas, the Church bears witness to God's grace and mercy to humanity in the shadow of the Cross and the light of the empty tomb; and

Whereas, Jesus, the Head of His Body, the Church, remains victorious for He is Risen from the dead, having conquered sin, death and the power of the evil one; therefore be it

Resolved, that The Florida-Georgia District in convention, strongly encourage God's people who are the Church to be intentional in their mission to BE the Church outside of its institutional wall; and be it finally

Resolved, that The Florida-Georgia District foster and develop a Missional Culture in our Church body as we seek to equip, empower and engage in the Master's business to connect people to Jesus.

Yes - 97% (194 votes)

No - 3.0% (6 votes)

Resolution O3.2 passed.

Resolution O3.3 - To Affirm Church Planting was moved by floor committee 1 for adoption.

To Affirm Church Planting in the Florida-Georgia District

Whereas, our Lord Jesus has told us that "the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few," Mat 9:37; and

Whereas, we live in a District consisting of more than 30 million people where fewer than 1 in 5 worship Jesus on any given weekend; and

Whereas, church planting is understood to be the gathering of believers in a specific area for the purpose of carrying out the Master's Business (Luke 19:11) to "go and to make disciples," sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, being witnesses in everyday life (Acts 1:8) worshiping together as the local body of Christ, washed clean in baptism and fed in the Lord's Supper forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith; and

Whereas, the Mission Advisory Council has studied the demographics of our District and has initiated, by the grace of God, one or more new missions in each of our five regions; and

Whereas, church planting is recognized as the single most effective way of reaching the unchurched and dechurched in our communities; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District in Convention affirm these plans for church planting in the coming triennium across our District; and be it further

Resolved, that congregations of the District be encouraged to explore possibilities for church planting and engage in them; and be it further

Resolved, that congregations of the Florida-Georgia District be encouraged to conduct an annual appeal for church planting; and be it further

Resolved, that information about new church plants be regularly reported in Lutheran Life, the official publication of the District, as well as other communication avenues for the benefit and encouragement of the entire District; and be it finally

Resolved, that congregations of the district regularly pray for workers in the harvest field who will focus on church planting (new ministry starts).

YES - 96.5% (195 votes)

NO - 3.5% (7 votes)

Resolution O3.3 passed.

Resolution O3.4 - To Re-Affirm LCMS Commitment to the Work of the Great Commission was moved by floor committee 1 for adoption.

To Re-Affirm LCMS Commitment to the Work of The Great Commission

Whereas, Christ's Great Commission to make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching (Matt. 28:19-20) has been and remains the heart of engaging in the Master's business by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those around us; and

Whereas, there are many people in our towns, villages, cities, be they large urban centers, suburban neighborhoods or tiny rural hamlets, who have not been touched by the life-changing Good News of God's kingdom in Christ Jesus; and

Whereas, we live during a time of great cultural change which often impedes the proclamation and reception of God's Word in life and witness; and

Whereas, the greatest mission of the Church is to proclaim the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament proclamation in the context of a community of believers, the Church; therefore be it Resolved, that as they meet in Convention, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod reaffirm its commitment to the Great Commission as stated in Matthew 28:19-20; and be it further

Resolved, that The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod re-affirms North America as a primary, discipling Mission Field for our Church communities; and be it finally

Resolved, that The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod shall commit its focus, energy and appropriate resources to train and equip our people, under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, to be confident to share the Good News of Christ Jesus in creative and bold ways in their neighborhoods, schools, workplaces and wherever they are placed as they live their lives as witnesses for Christ.

YES - 96.5% (193 votes)

NO - 3.5% (7 votes)

Resolution O3.4 passed

Presentation by Cindy Steinbeck

Ms. Cindy Steinbeck was invited forward by the chair in order to share a presentation on the ways in which running a vineyard bring new realizations to things found in Scripture.

Representatives from the Concordia University System

The Chair invites Concordia systems:

- Dr. Mary Hilgendorf from Concordia Bronxville
- Mr. Mark Pozin from Concordia University, Wisconsin and Ann Arbor
- Rev. Ben Haupt from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
- Rev. Jon Dryer from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Election of District Secretary

Motion to close nominations for District Secretary, seconded, PASS

Motion to elect Rev. Jay Winters as District Secretary by acclamation.

Rev. Jay Winters elected as District Secretary.

Election of Commissioned Ministers

Motion to close nominations, Seconded, PASS.

Motion to elect three Commissioned Ministers:

- Mr. Jesse Crosmer
- Ms. Lois Ford

- Mr. Nick Moss by acclamation.

Motion seconded, PASS.

School Ministries Report

Mr. Mark Brink presented the report on School Ministries. Highlighting various advances made by schools within the Florida-Georgia District, including awards received and advances made in accreditation.

Circuit Visitor Ratification

Motion for Circuit Visitors to be ratified.

Circuit 1 Northeast Georgia The Rev. David P. Wesche
Circuit 2 Atlanta North The Rev. Jeffrey Jordan
Circuit 3 Atlanta South The Rev. Larry W. Townsend
Circuit 4 East Central Georgia The Rev. Roger A. Schwartz
Circuit 5 Tallahassee The Rev. Mark Schulz
Circuit 6 First Coast The Rev. Dana A. Brones
Circuit 7 North Central Florida The Rev. James H. Rockey
Circuit 8 Space Coast The Rev. Gary T. Held
Circuit 9 Orlando East The Rev. Ken Green
Circuit 10 Orlando West The Rev. Dr. Milan Weerts
Circuit 11 Winter Haven The Rev. Dean Pfeffer
Circuit 12 Heartland The Rev. Richard Norris
Circuit 13 Suncoast The Rev. Dr. David Brockhoff
Circuit 14 St. Petersburg The Rev. Arnold Piering
Circuit 15 Tampa The Rev. Kevin L. Yoakum
Circuit 16 Sarasota The Rev. Rossetter Leavitt
Circuit 17 Southwest Rev. Richard Browning
Circuit 18 Treasure Coast The Rev. Craig Bode
Circuit 19 South Palm Beach The Rev. James Weist
Circuit 20 Gold Coast The Rev. Timothy Hartner
Circuit 21 Monroe-Miami-Dade The Rev. Alan Sielk

Yes - 99.2% (124 votes)

No - 0.8% (1 vote)

The Circuit Visitors were ratified by the Convention.

Ingathering Recipients

Rev. George Murdaugh from Stepping Stones, and Mrs. Sheryl DeWitt from Redeeming Life maternity were invited forward in order to share about what their organizations do in the lives of people.

Congregation Floor Committee 2

Resolution C2.2 -To Encourage Congregational Stewardship was moved by floor committee 2 for adoption.

To Encourage Congregational Stewardship

Whereas, Scripture teaches us over and over that God has called us to be stewards of His resources, not only financial, but of all He provides, and that stewardship is a matter of serving Jesus, and Jesus promises to provide our needs as our lives honor Him (John 12:26, Jesus says, "My Father will honor the one who serves Me."); and Whereas, Jesus spoke a great deal about possessions, money and finances in the New Testament, indicating an important connection between our faith and stewardship; and

Whereas, continued spiritual growth among our individual members will be the result of honoring God's call to be good stewards and will also result in an improved vision for the mission and ministry to connect people to Jesus in our local communities and increased commitment and financial blessings; and
Whereas, our Florida-Georgia District, through its Board of Directors and past District conventions, is committed to respond to our Lord's instructions to "make disciples of all nations," (Matthew 28:19), by working to increase the number of congregations and ministries of the district, and
Whereas, our Florida-Georgia District has served as a primary resource provider and role model for local congregations by giving proportionately to Synod, and by supporting mission and ministry across the District and
Whereas, The Florida-Georgia District provides gifts to Synod with the current level of 16% of its budget, a directive of the 23 rd District Convention June 13-15, 1980; and
Whereas, the people of God who compose the visible body of Christ that we call the Florida-Georgia District, are now being encouraged and equipped to respond to God's call as His willing personal witnesses in their communities to bring the message of salvation to lost people of the Florida-Georgia District, and to the ends of the earth; and
Whereas, all confirmed members will again be challenged to implement a personal "discipleship stewardship plan" that includes an annual review and encourages them to honor God through regular worship and Bible Study, service beyond the congregation in the community where God has placed them, and regular and planned financial support of their local parish as God blesses them, all to engage in the Master's business; therefore be it Resolved, that during this next three years the District Stewardship Advisory Committee make available educational opportunities and resources to all member congregations, encouraging them through a vigorous study God's Word to create a biblical stewardship plan that honors God, implements a regular congregational stewardship program, strengthens discipleship and service to others both within and outside their congregation, and practices proportional giving toward a minimum goal of tithing to the District; and be it further Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District as good stewards as these increased proportional gifts, continue to increase its proportional gift to Synod with a goal of reaching 20%, as together we work to connect people to Jesus both here and around the world; and be it finally Resolved, that with such increase in stewardship dollars as the congregations provide, the FloridaGeorgia District be encouraged to increase its support of missions and ministry throughout the District as together we equip, empower and engage to connect people to Jesus.

Yes - 92.9% (158 votes)

No - 7.1% (12 votes)

Resolution C2.2 passed.

Resolution C2.4 - Orientation of non-Lutheran Workers in Lutheran School Ministries was moved by floor committee 2 for adoption.

Orientation of non-Lutheran Workers in Lutheran School Ministries

Whereas, most Lutheran school ministries in the Florida-Georgia District include workers who are not LCMS Lutherans; and

Whereas, it is important that children and their families hear a consistent witness to the faith that we believe, teach and confess; and

Whereas, it is the responsibility of congregations to ensure that all workers in school ministries are properly instructed and prepared for such witness of the faith; therefore be it

Resolved, that congregations commit to providing such preparation and instruction in an evangelical and graceful manner; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District provide leadership, direction and resources to congregations and workers to that end.

Yes - 93.1% (163 votes)

No - 6.9% (12 votes)

Resolution C2.4 passed.

Resolution C2.5 - To Study the State of Lutheran Schools and Projections for Future in The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod was moved by floor committee 2 for adoption.

To Study the State of Lutheran Schools And Projections for the Future in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Whereas, the number of Lutheran elementary, middle and high schools in our District has been trending downward for more than a decade; and

Whereas, this is also an alarming trend Synod-wide; and

Whereas, no formal studies have been conducted to gain insight into understanding of these trends; and

Whereas, when schools close, opportunities for sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with children and families are lost; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District President appoint a task force to study these trends and submit its report to the District President no later than September 1, 2016; and be it further

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District submit an overture to the 66th Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod to establish a task force to study the state of Lutheran schools in the United States; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Task Force be instructed to submit its final report to the 67th Convention of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

Yes - 89.9% (161 votes)

No - 10.1% (18 votes)

Resolution C2.5 passed.

C2.6 - Support and Thanks for Social Service Agencies was moved by floor committee 2 for adoption.

Support and Thanks for Social Service Agencies

Whereas, the history of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from its inception has always included a concern for others, sharing not only the message of salvation, but also caring for the needs of those less fortunate through a variety of mercy ministries; and

Whereas, the Florida-Georgia District, organized in 1948, has been involved in meeting the needs of people in the communities where God has placed them; and

Whereas, God has richly blessed thousands of children and families in Florida and Georgia through the faithful ministries of the

- Lutheran Services Florida
- Lutheran Services of Georgia
- Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida
- Lutheran Services of North Florida; and

Whereas, God has richly blessed congregations of the Florida-Georgia District as they have reached out to their neighbors in need with food, clothes, shelter, care, counseling and compassion; and

Whereas, the Lord Jesus continues to implore His Church to "love the least among us," and

Whereas, many of the congregations of the Florida-Georgia District have made significant effort to reach into their communities in partnership with our Social Service Agencies to meet the needs of those outside the church; therefore be it

Resolved, that we give thanks to God for faithful agencies and workers in both Florida and Georgia that have served diligently to care for the needs of the people; and be it further

Resolved, that the congregations of the Florida-Georgia District be encouraged to support with their time, talents and treasures the local social service agencies in their area; and be it finally

Resolved, that we continue to implore God's Spirit so that our neighbors in need might know the compassion of Jesus through the compassionate acts of individuals who are engaged in the Master's business in our congregations, and schools of the Florida-Georgia District.

Yes - 97.2% (174 votes)

No - 2.8% (5 votes)

Resolution C2.6 passed.

Resolution C2.7 - To Modify the Governance of the Colleges and Universities of the Concordia University System was moved by floor committee 1 for adoption.

To Modify the Governance of the Colleges and Universities of the Concordia University System

Whereas, higher education is in a time of significant change, including but not limited to demographic shifts in prospective student populations, increasing market competition from non-profit and forprofit providers of education, ongoing innovations in technology and academic program delivery models, increasing compliance demands, and growing financial complexities; and

Whereas, Christian colleges and universities face the additional challenge to be faithful to their confession in an increasingly secular culture; and

Whereas, to survive and thrive in today's highly competitive and complex environment Christian institutions of higher education require informed, specialized, and experienced boards of regents, with a common commitment to education in the context of the Christian Gospel, an understanding of and passion for the unique missions of the institutions they govern, a multiplicity of skill sets to support the specific needs of the institutions they govern, and the capacity to support these institutions with their time, talent, treasure, and other resources; and

Whereas, the current system of regional and synodical elections of regents does not always provide regents who are as informed, skilled and experienced as is necessary to meet the needs of the colleges and universities of the Concordia University System and the challenges that these institutions face; and

Whereas, the size, scale, and complexity of the Concordia colleges and universities, now exceeding 35,000 students and half a billion dollars in combined budgets, require executive leaders of academic backgrounds who support and promote a Christ-centered, values-oriented education, and possess a diverse set of abilities, including fundraising, organizational and managerial, higher education law and compliance, financial, and more; and

Whereas, the boards of directors of the individual colleges and universities of the Concordia University System are subject to applicable local law and accreditation standards; and

Whereas, the colleges and universities of the Concordia University System desire to preserve and extend their identity as Lutheran institutions of higher education, which offer quality, affordable education; and

Whereas, the structure of the Concordia University System, established in 1992, is in need of modification to meet the current and future challenges of Lutheran higher education; therefore be it

Resolved, that The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod in convention give thanks to God for the treasures it has in its nine colleges and universities; and be it further

Resolved, that the governance structures of the individual colleges and universities of the Concordia University System be changed to provide that:

- The Board of each college or university will determine the total number of regents all of whom will be appointed by the Board;

- Each Board of Regents will include among its members the President of the geographic LCMS District in which the college or university is located;
- Each Board in its appointments of Regents will consider candidates (including ordained, commissioned and lay individuals) recommended from districts of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in proximity to the college or university, as well as any other recommendations that such Board considers appropriate;
- All regents must be active members of congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; and be it further Resolved, that the process of selecting the presidents of the individual colleges and universities of Concordia University System be changed to provide that each Board of Regents will choose its institution's president after it conducts an appropriate search process from among a qualified pool of members of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; and be it finally Resolved, that the Synod Bylaws be amended to reflect such changes to the governance structure and presidential selection process of the individual colleges and universities of the Concordia University System.

Leadership Floor Committee

Yes - 89.2% (165 votes)

No - 10.8% (20 votes)

Resolution C2.7 Passed

Leadership Floor Committee 1

Rev. David Brighton, chair of the Leadership Floor Committee was called upon to share the remaining Leadership Resolutions.

Resolution L1.5 - To Recommend Moving Synod to a Four-Year Convention Cycle, was moved by floor committee 1 for adoption.

To Recommend Moving Synod to a Four-Year Convention Cycle

Whereas, it is important for the congregations of the Synod to be good stewards with what has been entrusted to them by God; and

Whereas, the cost of a three-year convention cycle can create a heavy burden on congregations; and,

Whereas, in the interest of being good stewards of the increasingly limited resources of the Church; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District in convention recommend to the Synod for the 2016 Synod Convention that it be encouraged to move to a four year convention cycle with all the necessary changes it would entail; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Districts of the LCMS be encouraged to develop and offer during the intervening year a continuing education event or activity to support the laity and professional church workers with a focus on mission and ministry, to better connect people to Jesus.

Yes - 50.3% (92 votes)

No - 49.7% (91 votes)

Resolution L1.5 passed.

Resolution L1.6 - To Create a Seminary Education Futures Task Force was moved by floor committee 1 for adoption.

Whereas, we are called to be good stewards of our time, talent, and treasure to the glory of God and the furthering of His Kingdom; and

Whereas, the decline of enrollment at our two seminaries continues to be a concern; and
Whereas, we live in a changing academic and educational climate which makes it possible to consider a wide variety of ways to accomplish seminary education; therefore, be it finally
Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District petition the 2016 Convention of the LCMS to create a Task Force to study this issue and develop a plan to submit to the 2019 Synod Convention.

Yes - 85.4% (164 votes)
No - 14.6% (28 votes)

Resolution L1.6 passed.

Resolution L1.7 - To Establish a Young Adult Network for the FLGA District was moved by floor committee 1 for adoption.

To Establish a Young Adult Network for the FLGA District

Whereas, the Apostle Paul provided for the building up, discipleship, and mentoring of St. Timothy while he was still a young man, saying "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." (I Timothy 4); and

Whereas, the typical young adult often feels displaced and without community due to reoccurring geographical change, vocational change, and the instability that goes along with such change; and

Whereas, there are currently networks in place for the promotion of spiritual life within other age groups and vocations such as youth ministry, campus ministry, etc.; and

Whereas, according to a recent study 32 per cent of those between the ages of 18-29 consider themselves religiously unaffiliated, making them the largest unaffiliated age group. (Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, 2012); and

Whereas, this segment of the population includes ages that go well beyond that which is traditionally ministered to by campus ministries and other age specific ministries; and

Whereas, those who are currently young adults have the potential of being the next generation of leaders in Florida-Georgia District member churches and in the District as a whole; therefore be it finally

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS provide necessary resources and guidance in the establishment of a young adult network.

Yes - 94.2% (180 votes)
No - 5.8% (11 votes)

Resolution L1.7 passed.

Floor committee 1 moved that Resolution L1.3 To Support the Establishment of a New Collaborative Lay Deacon Program be removed from the table.

Pass. The motion was removed from the table and voted upon.

Yes - 72.6% (138 votes)
No - 27.4% (52 votes)

Resolution L1.3 passed.

Report from Synod President

Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod President, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, shared a report about the state of the Synod. This included a variety of things.

Closing Prayer by Chaplain Brian Kneser at 5:32pm

Session III – Sunday, June 14, 2015

Opening Worship began at 8:00am.

Question and Answer period for President Harrison

At 9:20am, President Harrison conducted a question and answer period.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Renee Varga, Treasurer of the Florida-Georgia District, reported on the finances of the District, including the fact that since the District has become debt-free, many of the funds of the District are now available for disbursement once again.

LCEF Report

Mr. Daniel Reichard, Vice President for Finance/LCEF Representative to the District, reported on the ways in which LCEF continues to partner with the District and how members of the District can utilize this partnership.

Doulos tou Christo Award for Ordained

President Gregory Walton presented the Doulos tou Christo award to Rev. Pat O'Brien for his service to the District.

Convention Essay

Rev. Dr. John Denninger was brought forward for the next part of his convention essay.

District Stewardship Advisory Council

Rev. Dennis Bartels shared about the work and progress of the District Stewardship Advisory Council.

The Election for the Nominations Committee, Ordained members. Move to close nominations, PASS.

Nominated: Rev. James Guelzow , Rev. Jeffrey Jordan (lost, 69 votes),

Rev. Dana Narring. Election of Ordained Members of the Committee: Rev. James Guelzow (108 votes), Rev. Dana Narring(70 votes).

Commissioned Ministers of Religion Nominated: Mr. Pete LeBorrious and Mr. Michael Popp. PASS.

Lay Members of the Nominations Committee: Ms. Deb Baldwin, Ms. Joyce Brown, Mr. David Eichinger, Mr. Ruben Vinardell. PASS.

Committee of Convention Nominations. Close Nominations, Seconded, PASS. Mr. William Gaik was elected for the Committee for Convention Nominations.

The Emphases Selected by the District through online survey: Local and US Missions and Outreach; Youth and Family Ministry, Stewardship.

Thank you to the outgoing members of the Board.

Vice President Brighton took the Chair, President Harrison came forward to install President Walton.

President Walton resumed the Chair, installing all of the newly elected officials.

The Convention was adjourned at 12:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Jay Winters, Secretary

2015 FLGA District Convention Official Acts

Initial Placements and Installations

Date	Last, first School	Church/School City, State	Position Classification
7/6/2014	Albrecht, Beth Concordia St. Paul	Shepherd of the Coast Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/3/2014	Anderson, Marisa L. Concordia Chicago	Trinity Delray Beach, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/12/2012	Beltz, Tyler D. Concordia Nebraska	Grace Winter Haven	Teacher Commissioned
4/27/2014	Bermudez, Diana Maria Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Messiah Tampa, FL	Deaconess Commissioned
2/2/2014	Birner, Jonathan G. Concordia Chicago	Grace Naples, FL	Director of Parish Music Commissioned
12/20/2014	Boeck, Thomas R. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Faith Marietta, GA	Pastor - SMP Ordained
6/7/2015	Chitwood, Kenneth Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	First Gainesville, FL	Pastor Ordained
12/23/2012	Cho, Sun Il Concordia Irvine	Faith Marietta, GA	Korean / Missionary Ordained
8/12/2012	Dauss, Ryan M. Concordia Nebraska	Grace Winter Haven	Teacher Commissioned
6/8/2014	DeHoyos, Daniel A. Concordia Austin	St. Paul Peachtree City, GA	DCE Commissioned
4/14/2013	Derong, Wynn T Concordia Texas	Good Shepherd Gainesville, GA	DCE Commissioned
9/15/2013	Duseberg, Amanda B. Concordia Chicago	Redeemer Stuart	Teacher Commissioned
4/27/2014	Eusebid, Raquel Esther Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Messiah Tampa, FL	Deaconess Commissioned
12/12/2013	Flores, Lori Gayle Concordia Irvine	St. Paul Lakeland, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/11/2013	Hartman, Jared Paul Concordia Seminary St. Louis	Grace St. Petersburg, FL	Pastor Ordained
9/8/2013	Hickey, Gary R. Concordia Mequon	St. Paul Boca Raton	Teacher Commissioned
9/7/2014	Joerz, Alyssa Concordia Bronxville	Faith Eustis, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/31/2013	Klopke, Philip J. Concordia Chicago	FLGA District Estero, FL	DCE Commissioned
9/9/2012	Korb, Micah Concordia Nebraska	Grace Winter Haven	Teacher Commissioned
8/18/2013	McKinnon, Brooke Concordia Chicago	Trinity Orlando, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/19/2012	Meyer, Joel P. Concordia Seminary - St. Louis	Holy Trinity Kingsland	Pastor Ordained
8/18/2013	Mezilus, Andre F. Concordia Seminary St. Louis	Amigos en Cristo Immokalee, FL	Pastor Ordained
9/15/2013	Montgomery, Sarah Anne	Faith	Teacher

Date	Last, first School	Church/School City, State	Position Classification
8/25/2013	Concordia Irvine Morales, Ligia I.	Eustis Prince of Peace	Commissioned Deaconess
7/6/2014	Concordia Seminary St. Louis Pettit, Joshua	Orlando, FL Our Redeemer	Commissioned Pastor
7/6/2014	Concordia Seminary St. Louis Reynolds, Stephen	Ocala, FL Shepherd of the Coast	Ordained Pastor
7/27/2014	Concordia Seminary St. Louis Rojas, Jr., Roberto E.	Ft. Lauderdale, FL Zion New Life	Ordained Pastor
4/27/2014	Concordia Seminary Ft. Wayne, IN Sanabria, Flor Marina	Winter Garden, FL Messiah	Ordained Deaconess
4/27/2014	Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Sanabria, Yolima	Tampa, FL Messiah	Commissioned Deaconess
8/3/2014	Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Schmidt, Alexandra A	Tampa, FL Trinity	Commissioned Teacher
6/2/2013	Concordia Chicago Sims, Raleigh Norman	Delray Beach, FL Ascension	Commissioned SMP Pastor
8/18/2013	Concordia Seminary St. Louis Skelton, Benjamin S.	Cassleberry, FL Trinity	Ordained Teacher
8/10/2014	Concordia Nebraska Sorensen, Daisha	Orlando, FL Trinity	Commissioned Teacher
2/2/2014	Concordia Nebraska St. Georges, Alyssa Diane	Rockledge, FL Redeemer	Commissioned Deaconess
8/10/2014	Concordia Theological Seminary Topp, Dana	Sanford, FL Grace	Commissioned Teacher
9/7/2014	Concordia Chicago Yurk, Michael	St. Petersburg, FL Faith	Commissioned DCE
	Concordia Chicago	Eustis, FL	Commissioned

Installations of Rostered Workers

Date	Name (last, first)	Church/School Location	Position Classification
8/10/2014	Abraham, Mr. Caleb	Trinity Delray Beach, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/10/2014	Abraham, Mrs. Emily	Trinity Delray Beach, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/24/2014	Anderson, Rev. Steven	Good Shepherd Sarasota, FL	Pastor Ordained
9/8/2013	Bauer, Mr. Jeremiah	St. Paul Boca Raton, FL	DCE Commissioned
9/8/2013	Bauer, Mrs. Kaitlin	St. Paul Boca Raton, FL	DCE Commissioned
7/7/2013	Baum, Rev. Henry	Holy Trinity Lutz, FL	Pastor - IIM Ordained
8/19/2012	Becker, Jeremy	St. Paul Weston, FL	DCE Commissioned

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name (last, first)</i>	<i>Church/School Location</i>	<i>Position Classification</i>
8/18/2013	Blank, Ms. Laura	Trinity Orlando, FL	Teacher Commissioned
11/18/2012	Bode, Rev. Craig	Trinity Ft. Pierce, FL	Pastor Ordained
11/25/2012	Boehlke, Rev. Craig	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Melbourne, FL	Pastor Ordained
6/13/2015	Brath, William A	FLGA District/LiveUCK Orlando	Missionary, District Ordained
8/17/2014	Brockberg, Dr. Kevin	Trinity Orlando, FL	Principal Commissioned
2/24/2013	Carlton, Rev. Richard	FLGA District Orlando, FL	Pastor Ordained
2/22/2015	Chitwood, Mrs. Elizabeth	First Gainesville, FL	Director of Parish Music Commissioned
8/19/2012	Costley, Dorothy	Redeemer Stuart, FL	Teacher Commissioned
10/6/2013	Crabtree, Rev. Bruce	Marathon Marathon, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/17/2014	Dean, Ms. Brenda	St. Paul Peachtree City, GA	Teacher Commissioned
8/3/2014	DeBoer, Ms. Kristine	Grace St. Petersburg, FL	Teacher Commissioned
7/1/2011	Deng, Rev. Bafel	Peace Decatur, GA	Missionary Ordained
8/17/2014	Deterding, Rev. Curtis	Zion Ft. Myers, FL	Pastor Ordained
1/27/2013	Dietrich, Dr. Joel	St. Paul Peachtree City, GA	DCE Commissioned
8/18/2013	Dunn, Ms. Kelsey	Grace Jacksonville, FL	Teacher Commissioned
10/20/2013	Durheim, Mr. Steve	Grace Jacksonville, FL	DCE Commissioned
7/8/2012	Eggebrecht, Rev Thomas	Ascension Casselberry, FL	Sr. Pastor Ordained
3/30/2014	Eichinger, Rev. Eric	Bethel Clearwater, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/11/2013	Floetke, Mr. Karl	Grace St. Petersburg, FL	Principal Commissioned
3/9/2014	Fuehler, Rev. Kenneth	Faith North Palm Beach, FL	Interim Pastor Ordained
12/10/2013	Galik, Rev. Karl	Lutheran Church Ext. Fund St. Louis, MO	LCEF VP Ordained
10/27/2013	Garazin, Rev. Kenneth	Marco Marco Island, FL	Pastor Ordained
10/15/2014	Glover, Rev. John	First Gainesville, FL	Pastor Ordained

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name (last, first)</i>	<i>Church/School Location</i>	<i>Position Classification</i>
12/10/2013	Goff , Rev. Dennis	St. Louis, MO	LCEF VP Ordained
11/17/2013	Green , Rev. Kenneth	Prince of Peace Orlando, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/17/2014	Grubb , Ms. Crislyn	Redeemer Stuart, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/24/2014	Harkey , Rev. Edwin	Holy Trinity Lutz, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/17/2014	Hillman , Ms. Laura	Grace Jacksonville, FL	Teacher Commissioned
6/2/2013	Hinchey , Rev. Donald	First Gainesville, FL	Pastor - IIM Ordained
11/7/2014	Hoffman , Rev. Zachary	Good Shepherd Gainesville, FL	Pastor Ordained
1/20/2013	Holder , Rev. Scott	Oak Road Lilburn, GA	Pastor Ordained
12/2/2012	Horsman , Rev Jonathan	Grace Winter Haven, FL	Pastor Ordained
10/27/2013	Johnson , Rev. Russel	Redeemer Vero Beach, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/12/2012	Jurkowski , Rev. Mark	St. John Ocala, FL	Pastor Ordained
9/9/2012	Kehret , Rev. David	Trinity Toccoa, GA	IIM Pastor Ordained
11/10/2013	Kelm , Rev. Daniel	Trinity Summerfield, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/4/2013	Kemerling , Ms. Karla	Faith Marietta, GA	Director Commissioned
9/23/2012	Kirk , Rev. Alston	Prince of Peace Orlando, FL	Sr. Pastor Ordained
8/3/2014	Kirk , Rev. Alston	Our Savior Plantation, FL	Interim Pastor Ordained
3/3/2013	Knapp , Rev. Richard	Grace Key West, FL	Pastor Ordained
9/7/2014	Kruse , Mr. Daryl	Faith Marietta, GA	Principal Commissioned
8/26/2012	Leupold , Patrick	Trinity Holly Hill, FL	Principal Commissioned
12/5/2013	Mackowiak , Rev. John	Christ the King Largo, FL	Interim Pastor Ordained
8/26/2012	Malenke , Julia	Trinity Orlando, FL	Teacher Commissioned
7/12/2014	Mandile , Rev. Anthony	Martin Luther Chapel Marathon, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/12/2012	Mattheus , Ellen	Grace Winter Haven, FL	EC Director Commissioned
8/11/2013	Maulella , Rev. Robert	St. Paul Peachtree City, GA	Interim Pastor Ordained

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name (last, first)</i>	<i>Church/School Location</i>	<i>Position Classification</i>
10/26/2014	Maulella , Rev. Robert	Faith Sebring, FL	Pastor Ordained
5/31/2015	McKenzie , Rev. Patrick	Hope Jacksonville, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/11/2013	McLay , Ms. Renee	Grace St. Petersburg, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/12/2012	Meier , Carisa	Our Savior Plantation, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/26/2013	Miessler , Mrs. Megan	Lutheran Counseling Services Winter Park, FL	DCE Commissioned
10/26/2014	Moore , Rev. Tyler	Our Savior St. Petersburg	Pastor Ordained
4/18/2015	Mueller , Rev. Ronald	St. John Ocala, FL	Pastor Ordained
2/3/2013	Murdaugh , Rev. George	Prince of Peace Douglasville, GA	Pastor Ordained
8/19/2012	Nelson-McKenzie , Dr. Kristen	Grace Jacksonville, FL	Principal Commissioned
2/2/2015	Pennekamp , Rev. Ronald	St. Paul Lakeland, FL	Senior Pastor Ordained
8/18/2013	Piller , Ms. Vicky	Ascension Casselberry, FL	Director Commissioned
8/24/2014	Potter , Mr. Jeffrey	St. Paul Boca Raton, FL	Assistant Principal Commissioned
3/15/2015	Poulos , Rev. George	Gloria Dei Davie, FL	Pastor - Senior Ordained
11/11/2012	Rabe , Rev. Mark	Trinity Albany, GA	Pastor Ordained
5/3/2015	Rabe , Rev. Mark	LCMS BIM St. Louis, MO	Missionary Ordained
7/3/2012	Reinhardt , Rev. Robert	Faith Sebring, FL	IIM Pastor Ordained
8/17/2014	Reitsma , Ms. Joy	Gloria Dei Davie, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/11/2013	Rittierodt , Mrs. Rachel	Trinity Delray Beach, FL	Teacher Commissioned
2/3/2013	Roth , Rev. John	FLGA District/Estero Design Team, Estero, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/12/2012	Rush , Angie	Faith Marietta, GA	Teacher Commissioned
7/15/2012	Schermbeck , Rev. Andrew	Holy Trinity Tampa, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/19/2012	Schrader , Janice	Shepherd of the Coast Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Teacher Commissioned
9/21/2014	Schroeder , Rev. Andrew	Lake Oconee Eatonton, GA	Pastor Ordained
9/7/2014	Shouse , Rev. Tod	Our Savior Zephyrhills, FL	Pastor Ordained

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name (last, first)</i>	<i>Church/School Location</i>	<i>Position Classification</i>
9/28/2014	Skopak , Rev. Jeffrey	Grace Jacksonville, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/18/2013	Smith , Ms. Jill	St. Paul Lakeland, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/17/2014	Springer , Rev. Martin	St. Mark Tucker, GA	Pastor Ordained
7/13/2014	Stark , Rev. Paul	St. Paul Peachtree City, GA	Pastor Ordained
11/17/2013	Steinke , Rev. Robert	Our Savior Zephyrhills, FL	Pastor Ordained
7/7/2013	Stoltenberg , Rev. James	Lake Oconee Eatonton, GA	Pastor - IIM Ordained
8/12/2012	Stoneburner , Audrey	Gloria Dei Davie, FL	Teacher Commissioned
7/22/2012	Stoneburner , Gordon	Gloria-Dei Davie, FL	Principal Commissioned
8/12/2012	Toms , Emily	Faith Marietta, GA	Teacher Commissioned
8/19/2012	Ueltzen , Larry	Shepherd of the Coast Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/19/2012	Utech , Nicholas	Redeemer Stuart, FL	Teacher Commissioned
6/29/2014	Vilsaint , Rev. Josue	Trinity Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Missionary Ordained
8/19/2012	von Ebers , Mrs. Erica	Trinity Delray Beach, FL	Teacher Commissioned
2/8/2015	Wachter , Jenny	St. Paul Peachtree City, GA	Teacher Commissioned
9/7/2012	Weingart , Ms. Jenna	Good Shepherd Sarasota, FL	Teacher Commissioned
6/22/2014	Weist , Rev. James	Epiphany Lake Worth, FL	Sr. Pastor Ordained
1/31/2015	Wenndt , Rev. Thomas	Faith New Port Richey, FL	Pastor Ordained
3/1/2015	Wessling , Mrs. Ruth	Faith Hialeah, FL	Principal Commissioned
8/17/2014	Wittcop , Ms. Jessica	Grace Winter Haven, FL	Teacher Commissioned
11/18/2012	Zabel , Mary	Epiphany Lake Worth, FL	Teacher Commissioned

Workers Reinstated to the Roster

<i>Date</i>	<i>Last, Title, First, Middle</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>	<i>Classification</i>
11/15/2012	Sieg , Rev. David	Reinstated	Ordained
11/25/2013	Thorsen , Mr. Mark	Reinstated	Commissioned
3/1/2015	Wessling , Mrs. Ruth	Reinstated	Commissioned

Workers Transferred in to FLGA District

<i>Date</i>	<i>Worker Name: Last, First</i>	<i>From District:</i>	<i>Classification</i>
7/23/2014	Abraham, Caleb	Michigan	Commissioned
7/23/2014	Abraham, Emily	Michigan	Commissioned
7/1/2013	Anderson, Russell	Iowa West	Ordained
7/1/2012	Becker, Jeremy	Missouri	Commissioned
8/21/2012	Becker, Kristin A.	Missouri	Commissioned
11/1/2014	Bortz, Kimberly	SELC	Commissioned
7/10/2014	Brockberg, Kevin H.	Michigan	Commissioned
3/25/2015	Buckert, Mark P.	Michigan	Ordained
3/18/2013	Cook, Lisa M.	Texas	Commissioned
9/30/2013	Crabtree, Bruce	Southeastern	Ordained
2/4/2014	Dean, Brenda K.	Indiana	Commissioned
8/1/2014	Deterding, Curtis L.	Minnesota North	Ordained
8/1/2014	Deterding, JoAnn K.	Minnesota North	Commissioned
7/18/2013	Dunn, Kelsey A.	California-Nevada-Hawaii	Commissioned
1/3/2014	Durheim, Michelle R.	Southern	Commissioned
9/22/2013	Durheim, Steven Wayne	Southern	Commissioned
7/8/2012	Eggebrecht, Thomas J.		Ordained
4/8/2015	Eisold, Mark T.	Mid-South	Ordained
8/16/2013	Elmshauser, Laura Ann	Michigan	Commissioned
4/7/2014	Faith, Gary J.	Southern	Ordained
5/21/2013	Felderman, Carol S.	Ohio	Commissioned
12/21/2012	Freudenburg, Allen	Mid-South	Ordained
2/24/2014	Fuehler, Kenneth M.	Southeastern	Ordained
7/24/2013	Garazin, Kenneth	Northern Illinois	Ordained
7/1/2013	Garcia, Albert L.	South Wisconsin	Ordained
10/28/2013	Green, Kenneth D.	Southeastern	Ordained
8/4/2014	Harkey, Edwin T.	New England	Ordained
10/31/2014	Hilgendorf, Duane H.	South Wisconsin	Commissioned
10/31/2014	Hilgendorf, Mary E.	South Wisconsin	Commissioned
4/21/2014	Hilgert, David W.	Missouri	Ordained
7/2/2014	Hillman, Laura	Iowa East	Commissioned
8/13/2012	Horsman, Jonathan	Mid-South	Ordained
2/1/2015	Huggins, Marvin A.	Missouri	Ordained
1/5/2015	Johnson, Betty K.	Mid-South	Commissioned
10/1/2013	Johnson, Russel P.	English	Ordained

<i>Date</i>	<i>Worker Name: Last, First</i>	<i>From District:</i>	<i>Classification</i>
9/1/2012	Kehret , David H.	Southeastern	Ordained
10/21/2013	Kelm , Daniel W.	South Wisconsin	Ordained
1/7/2013	Kimball , Les L.	Missouri	Ordained
7/19/2012	Kirchoff , Scott W.	Indiana	Commissioned
9/8/2012	Kirk , Alston S.	Texas	Ordained
1/26/2013	Krentz , Eugene	Northern Illinois	Ordained
4/23/2015	Krohn , Lindsey Marie	South Wisconsin	Commissioned
12/4/2013	Mackowiak , John E.	Michigan	Ordained
2/6/2014	Miller , Warren E.	Missouri	Ordained
10/21/2014	Moore , Cassandra A.	Missouri	Commissioned
6/30/2012	Nelson-McKenzie , Kristen	Michigan	Commissioned
11/30/2014	Pahl , Justin Robert	Missouri	Ordained
9/27/2013	Pena , Janice E.	Missouri	Commissioned
1/30/2014	Powers , Gwyn L.	Southeastern	Commissioned
10/6/2012	Rabe , Mark A.	California-Nevada-Hawaii	Ordained
7/3/2012	Reinhardt , Robert C.	Indiana	Ordained
8/1/2014	Reitsma , Joy	Northern Illinois	Commissioned
8/11/2013	Rittierodt , Rachel E.	Teacher	Commissioned
11/1/2013	Rittierodt , Thomas C.	DCE	Commissioned
7/1/2012	Schermbeck , Andrew D.	Northern Illinois	Ordained
11/12/2012	Schieber , Helmut E.	Kansas	Commissioned
10/1/2012	Schnetzer , Thomas F.	Atlantic	Commissioned
7/30/2012	Schrader , Janice Lynn	Southeastern	Commissioned
10/3/2014	Schreiber , Mark J.	Missouri	Ordained
7/21/2014	Scudieri , Robert	English	Ordained
12/1/2012	Shears , Amanda Ruth	English	Commissioned
9/1/2012	Simela , Phyllis N.	Southern	Commissioned
2/1/2013	Steinke , Laurie J.	Michigan	Commissioned
7/1/2012	Stoneburner , Audrey A.	Texas	Commissioned
7/1/2012	Stoneburner , Gordon F.	Texas	Commissioned
9/1/2013	Stuckert , Gordon S.	Ohio	Commissioned
2/7/2013	Stuenkel , Robert	Rocky Mountain	Commissioned
6/2/2014	Swartz , Diane L.	Pacific Southwest	Commissioned
7/27/2012	Utech , Nickolas A.	Iowa East	Commissioned
3/3/2014	Wahner , Laurie J.	Pacific Southwest	Commissioned
4/1/2015	Wallinger , Dennis E.	South Wisconsin	Commissioned

<i>Date</i>	<i>Worker Name: Last, First</i>	<i>From District:</i>	<i>Classification</i>
5/12/2014	Weist , James D.	Ohio	Ordained
8/12/2013	Wenndt , Thomas R.	Central Illinois	Ordained
5/8/2014	Wertz , Richard	Rocky Mountain	Ordained
7/31/2014	Wittcop , Jessica	Mid-South	Commissioned
9/18/2013	Wittcop , Patricia	Missouri	Commissioned
6/27/2013	Yates , Alvey	Rocky Mountain	Ordained

Workers Transferred Out to Other Districts

<i>Date</i>	<i>Worker Name: Last, First</i>	<i>To District</i>	<i>Classification</i>
8/15/2013	Achong , Mr. Andrew	Kansas	Commissioned
8/17/2012	Bailey , Mrs. Pamela	SELC	Commissioned
7/18/2012	Bakkelund , Ms. Sarah	Northern Illinois	Commissioned
3/26/2014	Bangert , Mrs. Amanda	Oklahoma	Commissioned
3/26/2014	Bangert , Mr. Justin	Oklahoma	Commissioned
8/1/2013	Bergholt , Mr. Matthew	SELC	Commissioned
7/30/2014	Bergholt , Mrs. Melissa	Missouri	Commissioned
7/1/2013	Boetcher , Rev. Jason	Kansas	Ordained
6/30/2013	Bossow , Ms. Gina	Rocky Mountain	Commissioned
4/8/2015	Brown , Rev. Joshua	California-Nevada-Hawaii	Ordained
6/9/2013	Burmeister , Rev. Scott	Oklahoma	Ordained
5/30/2013	Chormann , Rev. William	Northern Illinois	Ordained
7/7/2013	Czaplewski , Rev. Daniel	South Wisconsin	Ordained
12/13/2013	Daene , Rev. Roger	Indiana	Ordained
4/12/2013	Danielson , Rev. Dr. Gary	English	Ordained
7/30/2014	Dauss , Mr. Ryan	Southern	Commissioned
7/31/2012	Deterding , Rev. Paul	Missouri	Ordained
8/27/2014	Duport , Mr. Kyle	Pacific Southwest	Commissioned
6/1/2014	Duport , Mrs. Rebecca	Pacific Southwest	Commissioned
9/4/2012	Eggert , Rev. Dr. James	Michigan	Ordained
9/10/2013	Fields , Rev. Andrew	Indiana	Ordained
5/31/2013	Franz , Ms. Megan	Indiana	Commissioned
12/3/2013	Fulmer , Rev. Daniel	Michigan	Ordained
12/3/2013	Fulmer , Mrs. Marsha	Michigan	Commissioned
7/16/2013	Gerling , Ms. Kathleen	California-Nevada-Hawaii	Commissioned
6/30/2014	Gerth , Ms. Caledonia	Missouri	Commissioned
3/21/2013	Giesecking , Mr. David	Southern	Commissioned

<i>Date</i>	<i>Worker Name: Last, First</i>	<i>To District</i>	<i>Classification</i>
10/9/2013	Grana , Rev. Peter	Southeastern	Ordained
5/21/2013	Groleau , Ms. Sandra	Minnesota North	Commissioned
5/1/2013	Haupt , Rev. Benjamin	Missouri	Ordained
7/20/2012	Heidle , Rev. Michael	Central Illinois	Ordained
12/4/2014	Houppert , Rev. Ernest	Southern	Ordained
7/1/2014	James , Ms. Levana	Southern	Commissioned
7/1/2014	Johnson , Ms. Noel	Northwest	Commissioned
7/9/2014	Kemerling , Ms. Karla	Indiana	Commissioned
11/13/2013	Kirk , Rev. Alston	Texas	Ordained
7/29/2013	Klumb , Ms. Hannah	Northwest	Commissioned
10/17/2012	Larsen , Mr. Phillips	Pacific-Southwest	Commissioned
1/31/2013	Larsen , Ms. Stacy	Minnesota South	Commissioned
6/30/2013	Leupold , Mr. Patrick	SELC	Commissioned
9/7/2012	Link , Ms. Kimberly	South Wisconsin	Commissioned
8/15/2013	Lucke , Rev. Jeremy	Northwest	Ordained
8/15/2014	Lustila , Mr. Gerald	Montana	Commissioned
8/13/2013	Mabrey , Ms. Christine	Southeastern	Commissioned
7/5/2014	Mackowiak , Rev. John	Michigan	Ordained
9/19/2012	Markworth , Rev. Richard	South Wisconsin	Ordained
1/31/2015	Masinelli , Rev. Anthony	Rocky Mountain	Ordained
8/1/2014	Meyer , Rev. David	Minnesota North	Ordained
3/1/2015	Nabinger , Rev. David	Indiana	Ordained
10/11/2013	Neugebauer , Rev. Aaron	MidSouth	Ordained
6/30/2014	Peregoy , Rev. Nathan	Rocky Mountain	Ordained
6/11/2013	Porter , Mrs. Ellen	Pacific Southwest	Commissioned
6/9/2013	Prugh , Rev. Daniel	Southeastern	Ordained
5/13/2015	Rabe , Rev. Mark	Missouri	Ordained
9/13/2012	Rattei , Ms. Faith	Minnesota North	Commissioned
6/5/2013	Reinhardt , Rev. Robert	Indiana	Ordained
6/29/2013	Reitsma , Ms. Joy	Northern Illinois	Commissioned
12/3/2013	Ross , Rev. Andrew	Rocky Mountain	Ordained
12/3/2013	Ross , Mrs. Sarah	Rocky Mountain	Commissioned
10/15/2014	Sankey , Mr. Brent	Michigan	Commissioned
5/31/2014	Sankey , Mrs. Margaret	Michigan	Commissioned
1/23/2013	Schepmann , Rev. Daniel	Texas	Ordained
10/17/2012	Schmidt , Rev. Karl	Southeastern	Ordained

Date	Worker Name: Last, First	To District	Classification
7/31/2013	Schrader , Mrs. Janice	Minnesota South	Commissioned
7/31/2013	Schrader , Mr. Stephen	Minnesota South	Commissioned
8/15/2013	Schranz , Mr. William	Texas	Commissioned
7/1/2013	Sibley , Mrs. Megan	Oklahoma	Commissioned
8/1/2014	Skelton , Mr. Benjamin	SELC	Commissioned
8/17/2014	Stoltenberg , Rev. James	Southeastern	Ordained
7/1/2014	Stoneburner , Mrs. Audrey	Texas	Commissioned
7/1/2014	Stoneburner , Mr. Gordon	Texas	Commissioned
8/15/2013	Struckmeyer , Mr. Andrew	Texas	Commissioned
5/21/2013	Taylor , Ms. Ronda	Kansas	Commissioned
5/31/2013	Thomas , Ms. Jennifer	Indiana	Commissioned
5/28/2014	Tino , Rev. Dr. James	Michigan	Ordained
7/19/2012	Vega , Rev. Roland	Kansas	Ordained
6/29/2014	Weeks , Rev. Peter	Central Illinois	Ordained
7/30/2012	Wegner , Mr. Jeffrey	Southeastern	Commissioned
5/13/2015	Williams , Rev. Gary	Southeastern	Ordained
6/8/2014	Wood , Rev. Mark	Missouri	Ordained
6/4/2013	Worthington , Mrs. Tamara	English	Commissioned
4/24/2014	Zickfield , Mr. James	Missouri	Commissioned
4/8/2013	Zimmerman , Rev. Paul	Indiana	Ordained

Called to Glory

Date	Worker Name: Last, First	Classification
6/10/2013	Airey , Rev. Christian G.	Ordained
5/24/2013	Brooks , Rev. L. James	Ordained
7/24/2014	Buchheimer , Rev. John	Ordained
9/20/2014	Castens , Rev. Louis C	Ordained
10/28/2013	Gerken , Rev. Oscar A.	Ordained
9/1/2014	Haak , Ms. Diane V.	Commissioned
6/7/2013	Heideman , Mr. Harlan	Commissioned
10/24/2014	Holstein , Rev. Lowell J	Ordained
10/11/2014	Jones , Rev. John R.	Ordained
7/22/2012	Kelly , Rev. Adrian R	Ordained
2/11/2015	Kemp , Marge	Commissioned
4/25/2015	Knapp , Rev. Richard	Ordained
2/20/2015	Koepchen , Rev. Paul K	Ordained

Date	Worker Name: Last, First	Classification
1/31/2015	Lidbom , Rev. Roy A	Ordained
4/8/2014	Miller , Rev. Robert S.	Ordained
10/19/2013	Nauss , Rev. Milton J.	Ordained
12/21/2012	Olson , Rev. Robert	Ordained
11/24/2013	Perez , Rev. Angel L.	Ordained
11/9/2012	Perez-Arche , Rev. Mario	Ordained
12/30/2012	Rand , Ms. Susan	Commissioned
11/14/2012	Sagehorn , Mr. Donald J.	Commissioned
11/15/2012	Sammetinger , Rev. Carl A.	Ordained
8/29/2014	Schroeder , Rev. Donald K.	Ordained
11/20/2013	Schwanke , Mr. Wayne L.	Commissioned
2/14/2014	Snow , Rev. Edward Eugene	Ordained
9/24/2013	Still , Rev. Wayman L.	Ordained
8/28/2012	Thiele , Rev. Karl	Ordained
11/29/2012	Trout , Rev. Larry J.	Ordained
7/9/2014	Wessel , Rev. Kenneth H.	Ordained
11/26/2014	Wessling , Rev. Mark A	Ordained
7/9/2012	Zeile , Rev. Dr. Walter	Ordained

Workers Removed from the Roster of the LCMS

Date	Last, Title, First, Middle	Action Taken	Classification
4/14/2014	Ahrens , Mr. Frank	Resigned	Commissioned
1/23/2013	Brandel , Rev. Harold	Removed	Ordained
1/23/2013	Brown , August D	Resigned	Commissioned
1/28/2015	Fick , Marsha, L.	Removed	Commissioned
2/3/2014	Hanesworth , Mr. Timothy A.	Resigned	Commissioned
1/31/2015	Hibbs , Jack	Removed	Commissioned
1/29/2014	Jaranowski , Mrs. Elizabeth	Resigned	Commissioned
5/24/2013	Owens , Linda	Removed	Commissioned
12/4/2014	Oxley , Dcs. Sara	Resigned	Commissioned
1/23/2013	Payne , John R.	Resigned	Commissioned
1/28/2015	Pitts , Ms. Michelle	Removed	Commissioned
10/27/2014	Rach , William Dennis	Resigned	Commissioned
10/4/2013	Schroeder , Mrs. Kristin M.	Resigned	Commissioned
6/17/2014	Skilton , Jon C.	Resigned	Commissioned
12/9/2013	Thomason , Ms. Victoria	Removed	Commissioned

Change in Status

<i>Date</i>	<i>Worker Name: Last, First</i>	<i>From Status</i>	<i>To Status</i>	<i>Classification</i>
7/31/2012	Achong , Robert Drew	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
11/26/2012	Barg , Esther	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
6/7/2013	Beckwith , Mrs. Darla R.	Active	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
6/30/2014	Beltz , Mr. Tyler	Active	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
7/31/2013	Carlton , Rev. Richard	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
6/30/2013	Dauss , Mr. Ryan	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
6/17/2013	Davis , Rev. Jeremy	Active	Candidate	Ordained
10/1/2014	Diebel , Dcs. Lois E.	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
2/14/2014	Durheim , Mrs. Michelle R.	Non-Candidate	Candidate	Commissioned
8/31/2012	Eden , Amanda Ramiz	Active	Non-candidate	Commissioned
8/15/2013	Einspahr , Mr. Byron Byrdell	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
3/5/2014	Essenburg , Ms. Sheryl Ann	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Ordained
8/1/2012	Ferrier , Rev. Kenneth Middle	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Ordained
2/27/2013	Gerling , Mrs. Kathleen Jane	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
6/15/2012	Grana , Rev. Peter	Active	Candidate	Ordained
4/5/2015	Graebner , Rev.	Active	Candidate	Ordained
8/20/2012	Hanesworth , Timothy A.	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
6/30/2012	Haney , Ms. Elizabeth F.	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
5/21/2013	Haney , Ms. Elizabeth F.	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
9/30/2012	Hansen , Rev. David D.	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Ordained
3/3/2015	Haupt , Mrs. Sarah	Active	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
7/1/2013	Heflin , Mr. Roy W.	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
10/6/2013	Hibbs , Mr. Jack	Active	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
5/2/2014	Hinchey , Rev. Donald	Active	Candidate	Ordained
8/15/2013	Hoolahan , Connie E.	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
5/5/2013	Horsman , Rev. Jonathan	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
7/1/2012	James , Levana	Active	Non-candidate	Commissioned
10/12/2012	Johnson , Noel N.	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
11/25/2014	Jurkowski , Rev. Mark	Active	Non-Candidate	Ordained
8/3/2012	Juszczak , Jared	Active	Non-candidate	Commissioned
12/4/2014	Kiesel , Mr. Richard	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
7/9/2012	Knapp , Rev. Richard S.	Active	Candidate	Ordained
4/17/2014	Knapp , Rev. Richard S.	Active	Candidate	Ordained
7/1/2014	Knutson , Mr. Jeffrey R.	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
1/8/2013	Koehneke , Sarah E.	Candidate	Non-candidate	Commissioned

<i>Date</i>	<i>Worker Name: Last, First</i>	<i>From Status</i>	<i>To Status</i>	<i>Classification</i>
1/1/2013	Koren , Donna L.	Candidate	Non-candidate	Commissioned
10/13/2014	Kroll , Mr. David Lee	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
3/23/2013	Lewis , Ms. Ellen K.	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
6/15/2014	Lustila , Mr. Gerald J.	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
1/26/2013	Mahler , James	Candidate	Non-candidate	Commissioned
5/1/2014	Mathews , Mrs. Eunice F.	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
8/30/2013	Mattheus , Mrs. Ellen	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
5/7/2014	McCoy , Dcs Kathleen S.	Active	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
3/1/2014	McPherson , Rev. Daniel P.	Active	Candidate	Ordained
1/9/2013	Miessler , Mark L.	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
7/31/2013	Munce , Ms. Kathleen	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
6/11/2013	Nelson-McKenzie , Dr. Kristen	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
3/18/2014	Nowicki , Mr. Michael W.	Non-Candidate	Non-candidate	Commissioned
6/18/2013	Okun , Ms. Janet	Active	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
11/26/2012	Oxley , Sara	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
1/15/2012	Pueschel , Rev. Alec	Active	Candidate	Ordained
9/5/2012	Rattei , Faith	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
12/3/2013	Richter , Mr. Timothy D.	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
9/16/2012	Rockey , Stephen J.	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
8/15/2013	Russ , Kimberly Michele	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
7/1/2014	Sankey , Mr. Brent	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
4/5/2013	Schafer , Ms. Cristine	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
6/30/2013	Schelp , Mr. Keith	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
9/12/2014	Schroeder , Mrs. Carol J	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
10/19/2014	Shea , Ms. Jodene M.	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
7/28/2012	Sibley , Sandra K.	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
5/24/2013	Skilton , Mr. Jon	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
2/25/2014	Song , Rev. Joseph C.	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Ordained
8/15/2013	Sorkness , Ms. Sara Ellen	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
7/1/2013	Stackhouse , Ms. Melynda E.	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
6/1/2014	Steinke , Ms. Laurie J.	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
8/1/2014	Sweringen , Ms. Nancy	Active	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
10/13/2014	Tereszkiewicz , Mrs. Mary F	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
4/1/2014	Thurau , Mrs. Rachel	Non-Candidate	Non-candidate	Commissioned
1/28/2015	Toms , Ms. Emily	Active	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
7/29/2013	Tyson , Madelyn	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned

<i>Date</i>	<i>Worker Name: Last, First</i>	<i>From Status</i>	<i>To Status</i>	<i>Classification</i>
4/8/2015	Utech , Mr. Ralph	Non-Candidate	Emeritus	Commissioned
7/14/2014	Vaughn , Ms. Jennifer E.	Active	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
10/15/2014	Vaughn , Ms. Jennifer E.	Non-Candidate	Candidate	Commissioned
11/7/2014	Vogel , Mr. Timothy M.	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
7/1/2014	Wetherell , Mrs. Carri J.	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
7/1/2014	Wetherell , Mr. Mark E.	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
5/31/2013	Worthington , Ms. Tamara	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
2/8/2013	Zabel , Mrs. Mary	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
8/15/2013	Zehnder , Rev. Stephen	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Ordained
4/15/2014	Zickfield , Mr. James	Active	Candidate	Commissioned
1/9/2013	Ziebart , Thomas A.	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned
11/7/2014	Zook , Mr. Randall	Candidate	Non-Candidate	Commissioned

Workers Grated Emeritus Status

<i>Date</i>	<i>Worker name: Last, First</i>	<i>Classification</i>
1/1/2015	Abram , Rev. Mark	Ordained
9/5/2012	Arbeiter , Mr. Arlin A	Commissioned
12/31/2013	Baum , Rev. Dr. Henry	Ordained
8/12/2012	Besalski , Rev. Robert	Ordained
6/1/2014	Bollhagen , Rev. James	Ordained
7/13/2014	Crabtree , Rev. Bruce	Ordained
5/31/2013	Dorlac , Ms. Barbara	Commissioned
10/1/2014	Engel , Rev. Richard S.	Ordained
5/12/2013	Fountain , Rev. Douglas E.	Ordained
8/31/2013	Foust , Rev. Paul M	Ordained
5/18/2014	Guelzow , Rev. James	Ordained
3/1/2015	Hackbardt , Rev. D. Michael	Ordained
12/30/2012	Keenan , Carol	Commissioned
4/30/2015	Kolb , Rev. Peter	Ordained
4/14/2013	Kuehn , Rev. Gilbert	Ordained
9/30/2013	Lincoln , Ms. Cynthia A	Commissioned
7/31/2014	Meunier , Mr. Dennis M.	Commissioned
8/17/2014	Meyer , Rev. Rodger	Ordained
12/31/2014	Moore , Mrs. Lisa	Commissioned
12/31/2014	Moore , Rev. Dr. Jeffrey C.	Ordained
6/22/2014	Nabinger , Rev. David E.	Ordained

<i>Date</i>	<i>Worker name: Last, First</i>	<i>Classification</i>
5/30/2014	Nicklas , Rev. Edwin J.	Ordained
4/1/2012	Pueschel , Rev. Alec	Ordained
11/6/2012	Reinhardt , Rev. William	Ordained
10/31/2013	Reinke , Rev. Clarence F.	Ordained
2/13/2013	Riggs , Mr. Timothy	Commissioned
6/30/2013	Roberts , Rev. Donald S.	Ordained
4/5/2015	Rojas , Rev. Roberto	Ordained
4/30/2009	Rose , Mrs. Angeline	Commissioned
11/11/2012	Schoenrock , Rev. Harlan R	Ordained
4/28/2013	Schornhorst , Rev. Ronald L	Ordained
3/20/2013	Schrank , Deborah	Commissioned
8/1/2014	Steffens , Rev. Earl L	Ordained
5/23/2013	Steinke , Mrs. Terry A.	Commissioned
9/7/2014	Steinke , Rev. Robert	Ordained
6/30/2014	Stoeckel , Ms. Linda	Commissioned
2/5/2014	Timmons , Rev. James	Ordained
4/8/2015	Utech , Mr. Ralph	Commissioned
6/30/2014	Vangen , Rev. Philip M.	Ordained
6/30/2012	Wagoner , Ms. Paulette	Commissioned
6/30/2014	Weidner , Mr. David L.	Commissioned
11/1/2014	Weikart , Rev. Robert C	Ordained
11/18/2013	Yates , Rev. Alvey	Ordained
4/7/2013	Zimmerman , Rev. Paul	Ordained

Congregation Changes

<i>Date</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Approved by BOD</i>	<i>Signed Constitution</i>
8/1/2012	St. John the Apostle, Buford, GA	New Church Start		
1/13/2013	Living Water, Sanford, FL	Dissolved		
2/3/2013	Estero Mission (Now called Thrive), Ft. Myers, FL	New Church Start		
6/16/2013	Arms of Grace, Winder, GA	Disbanded/dissolved		
1/25/2012	Guardian, Jacksonville, FL	Disbanded/dissolved		
9/4/2013	LIVE UCF, Orlando, FL	New Church Start		
1/25/2015	Hope Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, FL	Initial Membership	8/20/2010	8/27/2010
9/24/2014	Christ the King, Commerce, GA	New Church Start		
10/1/2014	St. Matthew Lutheran Church	Disbanded/dissolved		
2/26/2015	Trinity Lutheran Church of Southwest Florida, Port Charlotte, FL	New Church Start		
2/26/2015	St. Mark Eritrean	Disbanded/dissolved		
4/7/2015	Light of the Glades Estero, FL	Disbanded/dissolved		

President's Report 2015

Let me set the stage just a little. Jesus told a wonderful parable in Luke 19 about a landowner who before going away on a trip entrusts his servants to carry out his business in his absence. He provides them with necessary resources and leaves them with simple instruction: “Engage in business until I return” Luke 19:13. So often this parable has been used in the context of financial stewardship, and while there are certainly applications, the truth is, this parable really deals with true stewardship, or our lives as His servants, or simply put, discipleship! This is the context of our theme for the 32nd Regular Convention of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. This is the cry of our Lord Jesus to each of us: **Engage in the Master's Business.**

We all understand well that Jesus is the Master—the Master over sin and death, the Master over health and wholeness, the Master over sea and sky and all the earth. He is our Master by virtue of His death and resurrection, through the waters of Holy Baptism, as He loves and nurtures us, claims us as His own, and calls us to a life of service in His Kingdom. Peter tells us that we are a “chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” We were saved to serve, chosen to communicate His love to the world, baptized for this moment to tell the world about the One who loves them with an everlasting love. So we are to Engage in the Master's Business.

What is truly the business of our Master? Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. He came to bind up the broken hearted and provide healing to the hurting. He came to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He came with authority over evil, shining the light of His grace. Now we are to be His hands and feet in the world. We are the ones to whom He says, “Engage in business until I return.” There is much to be done, especially in a post-church world, where people may know about Jesus but don't really know Him as their Savior. In some ways we've allowed Jesus to become another cultural icon, but for many it is an icon of long past days. For many in our communities Jesus and the Church are ancient, outdated, and irrelevant.

Christianity, despite what we see happening in our own country, remains the fastest growing world religion. We opine the fact that our churches in some places can't seem to grow or hold the interest of those in our communities. We can change that as we engage in the Master's business, which, by the way, isn't to grow a church, but rather to build His Kingdom. We are told that the United States is now the third largest mission field in the world. Many of the countries to whom we once sent missionaries are now sending missionaries here to share the love of Jesus. In Africa we find Christianity continuing to grow in increasing numbers. What we find in those places of growth is a boldness of faith, and a willingness to serve beyond the local parish. We find people engaging with their community, serving Jesus by building relationships and serving the needs of people.

For many years the Florida-Georgia District has focused on three critical targets as we seek to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These targets are leadership, congregations, and outreach. For the past six years we have specifically focused on leadership and congregations, and revitalization in particular. In the next triennium we will focus on outreach. We have developed some specific programs around each of these targets, and continue to address them with focus. Working with Cornerstone Consulting, we have helped to develop a program called Emergent Leaders, to help shape leaders, both professional and lay, for the future by preparing them for the present. We are also working with Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI) to develop missional leader learning communities beginning in 2016. These along with some additional initiatives are helping us strengthen leaders, both among our Professional Church Workers, and even among our laity. In terms of congregations, we have been working with Transforming Churches Network (TCN) to help congregations in the work of revitalization. TCN has been going through transformation as well, and is now better poised to respond to the differing situations in individual congregations. In other words, it is not a one size fits all approach. Beyond that, we have been working with Rev. Scott Gress, who has been coaching pastors and leaders, as well as assisting me by assessing congregational needs in specific places. All this is to strengthen congregations as they seek to build disciples for Jesus by looking both within and beyond the confines of their campus.

In the next triennium the Florida-Georgia District will continue working with these areas of leadership and congregations, but will place an emphasis on outreach. In 2013, Rev. Doug Kallesen, Executive Director of Missions and Outreach, and I began working with Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) to pilot a project aimed at helping congregations reach into their communities. We have had a number of congregations participate, and some with dramatic result. One of our congregations, following the outline that LHM provided, added 51 new members much to the astonishment of the pastor. He said that he was skeptical, but that they followed it precisely and it really worked! We will continue to develop this project as we begin to focus on new ways to reach into the communities and encourage incarnational discipleship. However, there is much to be done as we seek to engage in the Master's business!

As I have the joy and privilege of traveling around the Florida-Georgia District I see a variety of ministries that are various sizes. None of our ministries look exactly the same, and few of our ministries do things the same way. Even congregations that use the liturgical service directly from the hymnal have their own unique variations that are part of the local parish. What I do find in common among every congregation I have visited is they understand the good news about Jesus. In fact, LHM did a survey through the Barna Group. What they discovered was that 91% of the people surveyed in the Florida-Georgia District understood that eternal life is a free gift purchased by Jesus at the Cross. The Barna people were astonished and thought it must have been a mistake. However, they verified and validated and we rejoiced!

It seems that we get this wonderful concept of grace. It is part of our heritage. In fact, every congregation I have visited believes that Jesus is the only way of salvation. Every congregation I have visited believes the Bible to be the inerrant, inspired Word of God. Every congregation I have visited believes that Jesus is present in, with and under the bread and wine in Holy Communion. Every congregation believes that there are people in their community that need to know Jesus. Where we often fall short is getting that word out into the community. Often it seems in American Christianity that we have built a mighty fortress, but rather than being a launch point we use it only to protect us from a pagan world. Yet, it is to this very world that our Master calls us to engage with the resources He provides, for His purposes.

Reaching into the community is often scary because it often means stepping outside of our comfort zone. Can you imagine the first time the fisherman stepped into the cosmopolitan world of Jerusalem with Jesus? They were like, excuse the pun, fisherman out of water... Seriously, it had to be intimidating for them. God had called them and had been preparing them, and continued to nurture and teach them through the three years of traveling with Jesus and beyond. The same God, who has called you, is preparing you to serve Him. Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Mt 9:37-38). This is the Master's business.

At this 32nd Regular Convention we will hear a little about harvesting a crop from a vineyard. It's fascinating to understand what Jesus was talking about in John 15, when He tells us that He is the Vine and we are the branches. I am always humbled by John 15:16, where Jesus reminds each of us again, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you to bear fruit, fruit that will last!" I am asking our Lord to send out workers into His harvest field, and those workers are each of us, and the people we represent in our congregations. We are the ones that Jesus is counting on to share His grace and love with a hurting world. It is time for us to be engaged in the Master's business.

The vision for the District remains the same. We desire people to be equipped, empowered and engaged to connect people to Jesus. It's all about Jesus and our relationship with Him. Jesus always calls us into relationship with Him, and then into community with others. We see that pattern in Scripture. Jesus called His disciples individually, then formed them into a community. There is strength in standing together. The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!" (Ec 4:9-10).

We want to continue to focus on equipping the saints to do the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:12). I want to invest some significant time into equipping lay leaders. Certainly the requirements will vary from congregation to congregation, however, there are some basic things that are common for all congregational presidents or treasurers. How can we assist congregational leadership to see themselves in ministry rather than simply occupying a titled position? I believe it has to do with training and preparing and encouraging them.

We also want to empower people continually through Word and Sacraments. When the Word is taught in its power so that lives are transformed, and as we come in humility to receive the precious body and blood of Jesus, it can't help but empower us to proclaim His praises to all who will listen. We do a wonderful job, by and large, at delivering the Word and Sacraments regularly to God's people. However often we have produced "pew potatoes" by feeding but not sending. Like potatoes, we have eyes but we just fail to see the opportunities all around us, content to go to church. This was never God's plan. We have a sending God who empowers us to go and make disciples of all nations. We have good news to share with the world.

God has called us to engage the world. There was a time in our nation when church attendance seemed like a norm of cultured society. It was, in many places, an expectation. Churches grew significantly, and the business of the church seemed to be to manage all the people coming through the doors. That has changed significantly in our time. Today, if we desire the church to grow, it is less likely to happen on your church campus or inside your building, at least initially. People are looking for a greater degree of authenticity, wanting to know if what we say matches what we do. Often the church has failed in this regard. Jesus is calling us to engage in the Master's business. The only way that we can truly do this is to be out in the world, and yet not be of the world. We need to find the ways to build relationships in our communities. It means recognizing the value and worth of all people, from the cashier in the grocery store to the wait staff in the diner, to the bank teller to the person who delivers mail and so on. We need to realize that people matter to Jesus so they need to matter to us. We need to understand the needs in our communities, and then determine how we might be part of meeting those needs. As we do, God will do amazing things, first in the community, and then within the community of faith.

Engaging the world can be as simple as smiling and holding the door, and as messy and complicated as holding a hand in the hospital. What is at the heart of it all is sharing the love of Jesus with the world where you are. Engaging the world will no doubt be different for each of us as God places us in circumstances and spaces that are as unique as we each are. The needs are all around us. We don't have to worry about creating the opportunity to care for the people God sends our way. Where we have to watch ourselves is in missing the opportunities that God provides. I once heard the story of a Christian who prayed this prayer every morning: "Lord, if you want me to witness to someone today, please give me a sign to show me who it is." One day he found himself on a nearly empty bus when a big, burly man sat next to him. The timid believer anxiously waited for his stop so he could exit the bus. But before he could get off, the big burly guy next to him burst into tears and began to weep. This big but contrite man then cried out with a loud voice, "I'm a lost sinner and I need the Lord. Won't somebody tell me how to be saved?" He turned to this Christian gentleman and pleaded, "Can you show me how to find the Lord?" The believer immediately bowed his head and prayed, "Lord, is this a sign?" How often have we missed the opportunity to show the compassion of Jesus to others? Let me challenge every one of you, as a chosen leader, called by the Gospel, to open your eyes, see the people God is sending to you for care, and engage in the Master's business as we connect people to Jesus.

The truth is, we have seen, as have all Districts in the LCMS, dramatic declines. Since 2004 we have lost 12,283 baptized members in the Florida-Georgia District. This is a small town! Some of this has been through death, some through transfer to other places, but in many cases people have just stopped coming. Truthfully, much of this was likely a much longer term shift that has finally caught up as rolls have been cleaned. Better news, but not much, is that weekly attendance for the same time frame decreased only by 4350, about 35% of the total losses. From 2009 to 2013 the decrease was just under 1200. This is the reality of our time. You have no doubt experienced such losses in your own worshipping community. This is the very reason we need to continually be engaged in the Master's business, connecting people to Jesus. This isn't really about numbers but rather about people and reaching more people with the story of a new life in Jesus that never ends. I happen to believe that

our faith and practice, our doctrine and life offer real hope and joy to people, but we also have to build relationships. We have something worth sharing. We need to answer the call and enter the harvest field to engage in the Master's business. I hope you will join me. There are eternal souls at stake.

The past three years have flown by so quickly, and we have seen God doing some great work in the Florida-Georgia District. Let me simply highlight a few of the things that have happened over the past three years. Perhaps one of the biggest challenges and changes was the move of the District Office to a new location. The move was precipitated by several factors. First, the neighborhood we were in was becoming a risk concern, especially for our support staff. We had several break-ins, despite our security system. More importantly, we saw an opportunity to be in the world for Jesus. The only ones who came to our old building were those who had business there (except the break-ins). We saw our Lutheran folk, and the mailman, the UPS driver and the FedEx driver. We had little opportunity to witness our faith in Jesus. In addition, there was insufficient infrastructure in terms of hotels and restaurants. We are close to the airport, have good highways around us for easy access, and plenty of hotel and restaurant options, and it continues to grow. This works well for the numerous meetings and gatherings that take place in our facility. We have even hosted congregational board meetings. Please remember that these facilities belong to you, the District, and they can be available for congregational meetings according to our ability and schedule. Again, more importantly, we now routinely run into our fellow workers in the building, which ranges from the TSA to Proctor and Gamble, and we have opportunities to build relationship with them. Each day as the staff gathers for devotions and prayers, in addition to praying for our workers, we pray for a business, and then send them a post card telling them we prayed for them. It is amazing how God is using this as we engage in the Master's business of connecting people to Jesus.

As we gathered at the last convention the Florida-Georgia District was still working its way out of debt. We experienced what many congregations have with the economy. We made some very difficult choices and specific decisions that seemed to slow down progress. However, I am happy to report that we are currently out of debt and all of our special accounts are fully funded. This has been a major accomplishment, and I am grateful to Mr. Daniel J. Reichard, Executive Director of Administration and Finance and our financial team for their work.

Dan is also our District Vice President of Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). During this last triennium we were honored to host the LCEF Fall Leadership Conference in Orlando. In fact, it went so well that we are privileged to host it again, this time in Atlanta. Our partnership with LCEF has been a wonderful asset to the Florida-Georgia District. You will be able to read more about LCEF in Dan's report.

During this past triennium we said a tearful goodbye to our friend David Weidner, who retired last year in June 2014. David served as the Executive Assistant to the President, and took on other duties as assigned. He has been greatly missed by me, personally, and by our DCE's and youth ministry people. You will find a brief final report from him in this workbook as well. Mr. Mark Brink, Executive Director of School Ministry and Youth, has done a fantastic job in stepping in and assuming some new roles. We also celebrated the retirement of Mary Byrd in March 2015, who worked with LCEF and did a tremendous job.

Let me share a few words on our current staffing. In the near future we are considering some significant changes in our approach to ministry with our current staff. However, let me say that you have a phenomenal ministry team with a wealth of experience and talent at the District Office. I am privileged to work with this staff, and know that it is well thought of across the Synod. We are very blessed.

While you will read the reports from the District Executives, a stellar group of men, let me say a word about our support staff. Kathy Keene, my administrative assistant, Lynda Voss, administrative assistant to Mark Brink, Deborah Talbot, administrative assistant to Dan Reichard, Laura Zirbel, who is now working with bookkeeping and LCEF, and Cindy Hammerstrom, who works with both Rev. Douglas Kallesen in missions, and Mr. Mark Brink in youth ministry, are all valued ministry partners. Our Business Manager, John Elliott, does a wonderful job

keeping us on track with our budgeting and financial reports. This is truly a great staff and I am thankful for each of them.

In addition to the staff at the Lutheran Ministries Center, I have greatly appreciated the services provided by those pastors assisting the District in a part-time capacity: Pat O'Brien, who helps me, especially in preparing call lists for our congregations; Dennis Bartels, who chairs the stewardship advisory committee; our Mission Advisory Council, and Church Worker Family Care Commission. The President's Circle is ongoing and has been a real source of assistance for many. During the past three years we have had the true partnership of Lutheran Counseling Services, who has worked with us on any number of levels, serving many of our workers. We are even exploring new opportunities to serve our District through this ministry.

As thankful as I am for this great staff and ministry partners, most importantly, I wish to recognize and thank my wife, Edith, who has been a faithful ministry partner through all the years of my ministry. She has supported me in so many ways, stood by me, traveled with me, and encouraged me. She is truly the love of my life, and has been a tremendous blessing, not only to me, but also to the Board of Directors and Circuit Visitors who have, on occasion, joined us for dinner at our home. She has been a gracious host, at times a weary traveler, and a willing servant. I am so grateful to God for her, and for the life that He has given us together! During these last three years three rather significant events happened in my family. I had the privilege of marrying my younger son, Tim, and his wife, Megan. My older son, Alex, and his wife, Angie, blessed us with a beautiful granddaughter, Noelle Joy—a wonderful, tremendous blessing to our whole family! Perhaps the third thing was the untimely death of Edith's mother just this past winter, and our celebration of an early Easter as we hope in the Resurrection.

As a result of our past convention, we have a Continuing Education Task force that is at work and held a workshop for assisting workers in preparing a personal or professional development plan. In that time we have seen 6 new congregations form and have seen just under 2000 baptisms. We have also seen 4 congregations close for various reasons. We have sent 10 students to the Seminary, as well as a number of students to various schools in our CUS system. We have had 7 men begin the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program. We have had 18 vicars and 6 candidates placed in the District over the past three years. In the past triennium we have supported 36 seminary students with scholarships totaling \$60,450; 23 CUS students with scholarships totaling \$33,450; 8 Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS) scholarships for new pastors \$4000; and 16 Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) students receiving \$10,634.

During the past three years I was assigned, by President Harrison, to serve on the Board of Directors of Lutheran Service America (LSA). We meet quarterly in Washington, DC, and I am amazed at how active we Lutherans are in social ministry. There are over 300 agencies represented by LSA. It has been an informative learning opportunity to serve on this Board, especially in light of the number of agencies in Florida and Georgia that are part of this network.

We had over 400 youth and youth leaders gather for the National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, where we hosted a little ho down gathering and celebrated the then impending retirement of David Weidner. The theme, Live Loved, really set the tone for growth among our youth. A number of Florida-Georgia workers were involved in the production of this program.

We had a wonderful delegation who joined me at the Synod Convention in St. Louis under the theme, "Baptized for this Moment." It really is a similar theme to this convention with a focus on being the people that God has made us in Jesus. Much work was accomplished at this Synod Convention as a result of the restructuring that has been taking place over the past five years. We continue to hope in God's direction for good things for our Synod.

Each year we host the annual Veterans of the Cross Retreat for retired professional church workers and spouses. This is one of the most joyful events that we are privileged to host. We continue to see folks coming from all across the United States to join us as faithful servants gather around God's Word and spend time in fellowship

and friendship. This is a wonderful way for us to honor those who have given so much for the cause of the Gospel. The collective wisdom and experience in that room is simply amazing. This is one way we try to continue to serve those who have served.

As I reflect on the past three years, I am humbled at the support I have received from the many volunteers with whom I have been privileged to serve, and who have well served this District, including: the Board of Directors, the vice presidents, the Circuit Visitors, and the variety of folks who serve on the District's Advisory Councils, Task Forces, and Committees, whether through my office, in school ministry, missions and outreach, with youth or in any other number of ways. We have a district filled with servant leaders, and I am certainly grateful for our shared vision and partnership, which has enabled us to accomplish so much for the sake of Jesus. So please accept my sincere thanks to all who have helped make this last triennium such an awesome time of ministry.

My hope and prayer moving forward is that we can continue to strengthen our critical targets as we build strong leaders who are continually growing and learning. Part of this might be for congregations to consider allowing their pastor on a quarterly or semi-annually basis the opportunity to visit other churches to see how other congregations deal with ministry. Our Circuit Visitors have begun visitation with congregations and pastors to encourage and support their brothers in ministry. We are planning opportunities for equipping workers, both lay and professional, so that we might better be witnesses of our faith in Jesus as we work together. We want to assist congregations in seeing the value of investing in their communities for the sake of the Gospel with practical helps and ideas to prime the pump. We want to support our Lutheran schools and help promote them as real mission and ministry in the District. We have over 322 rostered teachers and administrators, not to mention over 800 teachers who are currently non-rostered. We are working with others in the Synod to find a way to possibly certify non-rostered teachers in our Lutheran doctrine. There is much that can be done in this area of ministry.

We are looking to plant new missions, especially with a growing Hispanic population. We currently house at Messiah, Tampa, the satellite seminary for Concordia Hispanic Institute. Recently we have begun steps to produce a Spanish version of Lutheran Life, as we seek to grow God's Kingdom. We are working on additional work among Korean, Indian, and Spanish in the Atlanta area. There is no doubt that God is on the move. My prayer is that you will join with me as we engage in the Master's Business!

I have no doubt that we will continue to impact our corner of the world with the good news of Jesus. We have so much for which to give thanks to God. He has blessed us so abundantly in so many ways. He has given us so much, beginning with the new life that we have in Jesus through Holy Baptism. As He died for sin, may we die to our sin, so that we can be equipped, empowered and engaged in the Master's Business!

Following this are the reports from the staff that will assist you in gaining some perspective of the scope of our work together. We are grateful for your partnership and pray that God will bless our days together working at the District Convention engaging in the Master's business.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Gregory S. Walton, President
The Florida-Georgia District, LCMS

Executive Assistant To The President And Congregational Services Report

Multiple District Middle and High School Youth Gatherings, Servant Events, and Youth Leadership Retreats are held each triennium. Countless hours of planning and management go into these events that include some of the most creative and exciting experiences for the youth to encounter their Lord and Savior as well as build relationships with youth and adults from other District congregations, and discover ways to live out their faith through serving others in need. We are most thankful for these servant leaders and the important ministry that they carry out every day.

Human Care - Four agencies across the geography of the District engage the poor, the suffering, the oppressed and those most vulnerable in society - children - on behalf of the church by providing healing, help and hope in the name of Jesus. While largely funded by state and federal grants and specialized programs, these agencies continue to be our hands and hearts in touching people's lives so powerfully. Please take time to read their reports and continue to provide support both in prayer and through your gifts for their work and ministry. These agencies also stand by to be key resources and leaders in the times of disaster response. Fortunately, during this triennium we have not had to respond to a major disaster from a storm or hurricane, but efforts continue to keep us prepared for such response in the future. Several congregations have been involved recently in preparing flood buckets for use by those impacted by storms.

Sabbatical - I was privileged to be able to take a 3-month sabbatical in early 2013 to rest, recreate, reenergize and study. It was a very powerful time of renewal for me as I focused on health and fitness, family and personal faith. During that time I attended the second conference of the National Association of Directors of Christian Education in Irvine, California; spent some time with my older brother traveling, and enjoyed some vacation time with my wife. I also interviewed various judicatory leaders concerning how they are managing their resources in providing support and ministry to their congregations in this post-Christian era. They revealed that they are focusing on helping congregations move outside of their walls to ministry in their communities as a means of reinvigorating their ministry and impact for Jesus' sake.

Retirement - After much prayer and discussion with my family and colleagues I made the decision to retire from full-time ministry after serving nearly 41 years in various congregational and administrative roles in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. In all of those years my family and I were so blessed to serve with amazing brothers and sisters in Christ across the country. The last twelve years were spent here in the Florida-Georgia District and I cannot begin to thank the District, its leaders, its congregations and workers for the opportunity to serve in such a Gospel and Mission focused setting. This District is an amazing jewel in the Synod. In a place of such wide spread diversity there is such an overwhelming sense of unity of mission, cooperation, and shared joy in serving Christ and His Church. I shall be forever grateful for the ministry that I was privileged to share with you all for these past thirteen years and for the friendships forged in working side by side in the fields of harvest. I would be remiss if I did not thank President Michael and President Walton for their support and trust in me as a fellow laborer and all the members of the District staff with whom it was my honor to serve. I remember you all daily in prayer and give thanks to God for the great work that He is accomplishing through you.

Respectfully Submitted by your fellow servant in Christ,

Mr. David Weidner

Finance & Administration Report

1) TIMEFRAME

- a) June 25, 2012 – June 14, 2015

2) PEOPLE

- a) John Elliott
 - i) Settled comfortably into the Business Manager role; Basic “blocking & tackling” getting done
 - ii) With David Weidner retiring, now handles District Disaster Response
- b) Laura Zirbel
 - i) Following several people in the role, became Bookkeeper in 2013
 - ii) Has added financial expertise and stability; Has also assumed LCEF Loan Consultant duties
- c) Debbie Talbot
 - i) Replaced Kathy Keene in 2012; Kathy is now President Walton’s Administrative Assistant
 - ii) Fits nicely with the Team

3) FINANCIAL ISSUES

- a) Financial results and cash position – In simple terms, “thumbs up!”
 - i) The District is debt-free!
 - ii) Will be covered separately in greater detail
- b) Audit
 - i) Batts, Morrison, Wales, & Lee – Provided unqualified opinion for 2012 and 2013 (no issues)
 - ii) Carr Riggs & Ingram completed 2014 audit; another “clean” audit with no issues identified

4) FACILITIES and PROPERTIES

- a) Woodlands Camp
 - i) Previously, sold property to YWAM and District “carried the paper”
 - ii) LCEF re-financed the transaction; Allowed the District to extinguish its LCEF debt
- b) Property Rationalization - Review future use & appropriateness to mission
 - i) District Office – Sold in December 2012; Now renting 55% less office space near Orlando airport
 - ii) Oxford – Still no longer future church plant site; Holding until appropriate offer is received
 - iii) Estero Property
 - (1) Potential future site of Thrive Community Church (Florida Gulf Coast University)
 - (2) Transaction details still need to be agreed-upon

5) ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

- a) Property Rationalization; Now have two sites to address
- b) Restricted Accounts are “fully funded”; need to put these dollars to ministry uses

6) LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND (LCEF) – follows

Submitted by Mr. Daniel J. Reichard
Executive Director Finance and Administration

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

1) **TIMEFRAME:** June 24, 2012 – June 14, 2015

2) **PEOPLE**

- a) Mary Byrd (29 year veteran) retired February 28, 2015; still assisting on a Consultant basis
- b) Debbie Talbot – Provides solid support with an ever expanding list of to-do's
- c) Laura Zirbel – Assumed Loan Consultant duties in 2015 in addition to her Bookkeeper role
- d) John Elliott – Behind-the-scenes support (10% LCEF allocation)
- e) Congregation Advocates – Assist in LCEF awareness efforts on the local level; Do you have one?

3) **SERVICE OFFERINGS**

a) **Investments**

- i) Increased Investor level from February 2012 to March 2015: 4.4% to 5.8% of Member
- ii) 5.8% of Communicant Members, 62% of Circuit Visitors, and 81% of Board of Directors
- iii) New options provide investment opportunities for ALL; check them out!

b) **Loans**

- i) LCEF has dollars to loan; potential for new ministry opportunities
- ii) \$10 million loaned in 2014; estimating \$4 million in 2015
- iii) Currently 10 Loans-in-Progress with another 8 in “Back-Burner” status
- iv) Delinquent and Impaired Loans still requiring significant attention:
 - (1) Substantial reduction from February 2010 to March 2015: \$27.7 to \$2.5 million
 - (2) Congregations involved have also decreased: 16 to 4 (significant non-financial issues)

c) **Ministry Support**

- i) Continue to highlight this least understood service offering: “I didn’t know you did that”
- ii) Seven services are available; some are FREE! Highlights nature of LCEF as Ministry Partner

4) **AWARENESS**

- a) Congregational Visits:
 - i) LCEF Sundays – Target 2 per month; Future development of District-wide LCEF Sunday
 - ii) Architectural Advisory Committee visits – Coordinate trip with multiple visits of this FREE service
 - iii) Topic-specific Visit – Meet on-site to address precise ministry need or opportunity
- b) Congregation Advocate – On-site Person to maintain & increase LCEF consciousness
- c) Fall Leadership Conferences – San Antonio (2013) and Orange County, CA (2014); 2015 in Atlanta

5) **2014-2015 GOALS**

- a) Investments: Add 18 new Investors
- b) Loans: \$3.7 million
- c) Ministry Support: Highlight service offerings and match to Congregational ministry needs
- d) Impaired Loans: Develop new plans and assist Congregations off of the Impaired Loan listing
- e) Congregation Advocates: Add at least five (5) new Advocates

6) **LCEF EARNINGS DISTRIBUTION (2012 – 2014)**

- a) Distributed thru-out the LCMS: In excess of \$1.6 million for each of the three years
- b) Distributed in FL-GA District: \$53,309, \$62,798, and \$63,614 over the past three years

LCEF Cont.

The concept of "church extension" began back in 1902 when members of several congregations raised \$400 to start a new congregation in a neighboring community. This sharing of God's blessings and investing to expand Lutherans' ability to share the Gospel continues now through Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF).

Why Do We Exist?

We exist for the sole purpose of empowering ministries in Kingdom work. Our goal each day is to identify opportunities to share our resources in order to expand God's kingdom. We want more people to hear and believe, be baptized, grow in the Word and join together in God's saving grace and the gift of eternal life.

Who Do We Serve?

We are an organization that serves our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) partners in the United States and around the world. We have more 50,000 investors, including individuals, LCMS ministries and entities, Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs), businesses and partner churches. Our loan department serves LCMS ministries and rostered church workers, providing customized loans including mortgages, construction loans, lines of credit, debt consolidation and education debt repayment loans.

What Do We Do and How Do We Do It?

With a dedicated staff in the national office in St. Louis, joined by the talented employees in the district offices and volunteers in congregations and schools, LCEF empowers ministry through a total asset portfolio of \$1.75 billion.

Through the dollars invested by more than 50,000 individuals, congregations, schools, organizations and businesses, LCEF assists ministries with customized loans and ministry support services that help leaders respond to growth and community needs. We provide personal loans to rostered church workers—those dedicated servants who are on the front lines of ministry.

As of June 30, 2014, LCEF's loan portfolio consisted of: 75% congregational loans; 9% educational ministry loans; and 7% rostered church worker residential, personal and educational debt repayment loans. The remaining loans are to the LCMS and LCMS-related entities, including RSOs. Loans disbursed during fiscal 2014 totaled \$177.6 million.

LCEF's Ministry Support services help ministries develop clarity in understanding what God is calling them to do. Once there is clarity, then resources can be effectively aligned and action flows naturally, keeping ministry in motion. Over the last 20 years, LCEF's Capital Funding Services has helped ministries raise close to \$500 million. Laborers For Christ—another ministry of LCEF—has saved congregations \$15 million, which has enabled them to put funds to ministry that might have otherwise been spent on construction and renovation.

Financial Summary

God truly blessed LCEF with strong financial results in fiscal year 2014 (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014). Our operating income for that period was \$9.5 million with net income of \$18.8 million. As a result of this solid performance, LCEF allocated \$3.5 million for distribution to the districts and Synod, and other ministries within the Synod.

Liquidity (cash and investments divided by outstanding notes and support dollar payables) was strong at 21.5% and our capital-to-asset ratio improved to 10.9%. The loan delinquency rate of 2.3% has returned to prerecession levels, and loan approvals and commitments are increasing.

LCEF continues to manage its resources prudently while seeking to be the best stewards possible in all that we do.

Respectfully submitted by Mr. Daniel J. Reichard
Vice President LCEF

A Special Message to Florida-Georgia District Congregations **From LCEF President/CEO Richard C. Robertson**

Dear Ministry Partner:

It is an honor to have this opportunity to share with you highlights of the LCEF ministry. We have made significant strides in creating products that meet the unique needs of the LCMS.

We recognize many LCMS ministries have been hesitant in recent years to engage in large capital projects or to expand outreach efforts due to the volatile economic climate. This hesitancy is not unfounded. However, God presents us with opportunities to engage in Kingdom work every day and we cannot be complacent—the mission is too important.

We look forward to discussing ideas and sharing insights to help ministries examine their potential and to offer LCMS members opportunities to support the plans ministries may embark upon.

LCEF's new products include:

Young Investors (Y.I.) Club: The Y.I. Club offers young people a way to learn about saving and Christian stewardship while having fun. Available to children up through age 18, investments earn premium rates and “extra credit” to their investment for good grades and community service. They also enjoy special gifts and age-appropriate newsletters. Investing now makes it easy for young people to learn habits that last a lifetime. In spring 2015, up to three scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors that are Y.I. Club investors.

ConnectPLUS: ConnectPLUS offers **new** LCEF investors the opportunity to connect with us, support LCMS ministries and benefit from our competitive financial services. This two-year term note can be started with just \$500, allows for additional investments of at least \$25 and helps fund custom loans and ministry support services.

PartnerPLUS: For those already invested with LCEF, we invite you to extend your partnership and add a two or four-year term note to your LCEF portfolio. It too can be started with just \$500 of new funds (no transfers from other LCEF investments), allows for additional investments of at least \$25 and has competitive rates on both terms. IRAs and organizational investments allowed.

SMART Loans: Having a strong Lutheran education network is important. LCEF partners with many LCMS early-education, elementary and secondary schools, as well as the Concordia University System, providing loans to support expansion and operations. In response to the growing needs in the competitive education market, we developed a streamlined approval and funding process for schools, called SMART Loans. These loans have no interest for the first 12 months and are a good option for financing technology and building upgrades.

Education Loan Repayment Program for Rostered Church Workers: Finances should not be a barrier to those called to the ministry. Rostered church workers can incur a substantial amount of education debt by the time they take their first call. LCEF's Educational Loan Repayment Program helps LCMS ordained ministers and commissioned workers to consolidate existing school debt. Loans can also be made to congregations or ministries on behalf of the called worker.

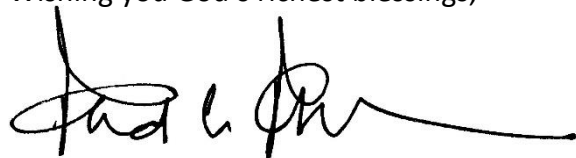
Immeasurably More: God desires your members to align their resources with a response of generosity. Guiding you through the Immeasurably More process, your professional Lutheran consultants will invite your members to put their faith in motion and experience the tremendous joy of generous living and giving. LCEF offers tailored capital campaigns based on "Immeasurably More," from Eph. 3:20-21. We serve the LCMS exclusively because *we know you—we are you.*

We are also excited to continue other activities such as sponsorships. LCEF is a financial supporter of **the LCMS movie project, "The First Rosa: Teacher, Confessor, Church Planter,"** slated for a 2015 release. We partnered with the LCMS in the financing because we believe in the importance of sharing the inspiring story of the incredible Lutheran educator and church planter, Rosa J. Young.

LCEF's **National Student Marketing Competition** for Concordia universities and colleges is in its fourth year. The staff works hard to provide marketing, communications, business and accounting students with a unique educational experience. The benefit to LCEF is the reverse mentoring the students provide as they share their research and creative ideas. In addition to the benefit of the experience, the teams also take home a monetary award for their schools.

We know we are stronger working together as one, so we can continue to provide hope and peace to more people through the Gospel. That has been a cornerstone of the "church extension" concept since it began in 1902. We pray you will walk with us and continue to support the work of LCEF and the LCMS. I encourage you to find out more at lcef.org or call 800-843-5233.

Wishing you God's richest blessings,



Richard C. Robertson, President/CEO
Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Missions Outreach and Revitalization

Why do we do mission? Mission begins in the heart of God. It is not something that I or some other human being simply thought up. Mission is God's idea and it is central to His relationship to each of us and to our world. "God so loved the world..." John 3:16 and we also know from scripture that God wants no one to perish but that all might come to faith in Christ (1 Tim 2:4). We do mission because it's what God wants!

God's mission is necessary because of our sin and is centered in the saving work of Jesus Christ. "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, Romans 3:10-23." God in Jesus forgives us all our sins, remembering them no more and makes us His new creation. (Jeremiah 31:34, 2 Cor 5:15-21

God's mission is empowered by God the Holy Spirit (John 6:63, Rom 8:26, 27) and is to and is for everyone who ever lived or whoever will live and breathe on planet Earth. Are we not instructed to go to all people (Mat 28:19-20) in the hope that "every knee should bow and tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..." Phil 2:11

God's Mission is OUR Mission and is the very reason for being His Church. God's Mission is also MY Mission – not only am I saved in Jesus I am also sent to share His Gospel. Yes God's Mission is urgent. We cannot delay because this is God's redeeming rescue Mission.

Often we talk in terms of missions or new church starts, outreach or sharing our faith and revitalization, building the mission capacity for existing congregations. The bottom line of all of this is however, making disciples who make disciples. Jesus told His disciples, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men..." and again instructs us to, "Go and make disciples of all people baptizing and teaching them all things whatsoever I have commanded you...." Mat 28:19-20.

Mission Advisory Council

The FLGA District is thankful for the work of Pastors Bob Besalski, Tim Droegemueller, John Lehenbauer, Kevin Koenig, President Greg Walton, and Doug Kallesen and lay representatives Barb Stoeppelwerth, Bill Arndt, Roger Walker, Cindy Hammerstrom and Dan Reichard. Through the work of the Mission Advisory Council (MAC) declining mission dollars have been maximized, enabling the District to fund new mission work as well as offer declining mission support for other missions. Campus ministry is also funded through the District's mission effort as grants. The MAC also introduced a Mission Loan at zero percent for approved missions thus making it possible for the mission dollars to be repaid and put to use again on another new mission. MAC collaborated with the Texas District on this model.

Since 2012, MAC also conducted a demographic study of our entire District to determine the best areas that new churches should be considered. Twenty-five such locations were found and then were shared with the Circuit Visitors and Board of Directors who then further narrowed this list. Today we are working with more than a dozen such hot spots and are at various degrees of development. At the direction of President Walton a goal was set that by the 2015 District Convention at least one new start would be initiated in each of the five regions of our District. (See report)

The MAC also adopted a template for new start assessment:

- Do we have the - Right Person?
- Is this the- Right Place?

- Do we have the Right Plan?
- Is this the Right Time for a new start here?

These questions have guided us in assessing current and future missions and have proven helpful.

Finally, a Churches Planting Churches workshop was held in January 2014 attended by 32 from 11 different congregations. Most of these congregations are engaged in mothering a new start or in a revitalization effort. This was presented by the Center for US Missions and hosted at the District Office.

New Starts 2012-2015

St John the Apostle Buford, GA	August 2012
Thrive Estero, FL Campus	February 2013
LIVE UCF Orlando, FL Campus	September 2013
Hope Lutheran Jacksonville, FL	January 2015 Charter
Christ the King Commerce, GA	September 2014
Trinity Lutheran Church Rotunda, FL	February 2015

Initiated New Starts 2014-2015

Thanks be to God that new mission starts **have been initiated** across our District in each of the five regions. God has also provided us with current funding and several new church planter names for church planting. The Lord has heard and is answering our prayers! Soli Deo Gloria.

Region	Area	Type	Comments
1	Buford –St John Apostle	Mother – Living Faith, Cumming	Good location – rented on Sundays ...worshipping. Aaron Simms worker priest.
1	Commerce- Christ the King	Mother-Trinity, Athens, Christus Victor	Active- started worship in Feb 2015, midweek Bible class. Aaron Reinking worker priest SMP grad.
1	Fort Gordon Mission		Active -LCMS base chaplains
1	Grove Town, GA	Mother - Our Redeemer, Augusta, GA possible	Identified/Initial Planning
1	North Macon	Mother – Mt Calvary, Warner Robins, GA	Initial Planning
1	Newnan	Mother – St. Paul, Peachtree City, GA possible	Initial Planning
2	Nocatee	Mother – Bethlehem, Jacksonville Beach possible	Initial Planning
3	Orlando – Live UCF	Campus	Active
3	South Orlando-Four Corners	Mothers – Woodlands, Montverde, FL Grace, Winter Haven, FL	Active Missional Communities- Planter Visit
3	West Palm Bay	Gary Held, Craig Behlke, Mark Moreno	Initial Planning

4	Estero FL – Thrive	Campus Town/Gown	Launched 2014 – Started with Missional Communities.
4	Lakewood Ranch (LWR)	Beautiful Savior, Sarasota, FL	Worship Services held in LWR community Fall of 2015. Planter Visit.
4	North Port Area		*Worshiping in 90's *Submitted constitution, bylaws to District and are seeking to charter.
4	Naples Esperanza Vita	Multi Ethnic Restart	
5	South Port St Lucie	Mother – Redeemer Stuart (Grace supportive)	Missional Communities starting, Community outreach events in March and April including Easter
5	Royal Palm/Wellington	Mother – Epiphany possible	Initial Planning

Campus Ministries in FLGA

University	Location
University of GA	Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Athens, GA
GA Southern University	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Statesboro, GA
University of FL	First Lutheran, Gainesville, FL
Santa Fe Community College	First Lutheran, Gainesville, FL
Florida State University	University Lutheran Church, Tallahassee, FL
Florida A&M	University Lutheran Church, Tallahassee, FL
University of Central FL	LiveUCF campus
Florida Gulf Coast University	Thrive campus

Potential Campus Ministry Sites – Georgia

Location	Universities/Colleges
Albany	Albany State
Atlanta	Emory, Georgia Tech, Georgia State
Augusta	Medical College, Augusta State
Columbus	Columbus State
East Point	Spellman, Moorehouse
Kennesaw	Kennesaw State University
Macon	Macon State, Mercer University, Wesleyan
Milledgeville	Georgia State College & University
Rome	Shorter College, Berry College
Savannah	Armstrong Atlantic, Savannah College of Arts and Design
Valdosta	Valdosta State University

Potential Campus Ministry Sites – Florida

Location	University/Colleges
Bradenton	Bradenton Community College
Boca Raton	Florida Atlantic, Lynn
Davie	Nova South Eastern
Daytona Beach	Embry Riddle
Jacksonville	University of North FL, University of Jacksonville

Lakeland	Florida Southern, University of South Florida Branch
Melbourne	Community College
Miami	Barry University, Florida International
St. Augustine	Flagler
Tampa	University of South Florida, University of Tampa
West Palm Beach	Palm Beach Atlantic

LHM-FLGA Outreach Initiative

Lutheran Hour Ministries and the FLGA District are engaged in a pilot Outreach Initiative that began late in 2013 as a response to concerns over Synod’s loss of more than 30,000 members annually. The FLGA District had done a study only to find that we too were in decline. The Outreach Initiative aims at helping individuals, congregations and schools connect people to Jesus. The training kicked off with four trainings held in each of the five regions of the District. Trainings were held at:

- Faith Marietta, GA
- Grace Jacksonville, FL
- Grace Winter Haven, FL
- Holy Cross Miami, FL
- Zion Fort Myers, FL

The four trainings offered were:

- The Power of One - personal evangelism,
- The Power of Some Congregational - readiness and witness
- Power of Social Media
- Building Bridges - training on connecting with the community provided by TCN

Separate trainings and topics were led by LHM at our Middle School and High School gatherings. The Outreach Initiative assessed growing congregations in FLGA and in a Barna Study determined that each of them held three factors in common; a culture of outreach, consistent follow up, and community connection many times through food. LHM and FLGA adopted the 3 C’s of – Culture, Connection, and Community as primary targets for the Outreach Initiative. The Barna Study also showed that 97% of those surveyed in our District correctly knew that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Furthermore more than half of those surveyed knew that they had a personal responsibility to share their faith with others. This is extremely good news as we launch out into a culture today where fewer than 1 in 5 attend worship. It is also good news to know that we know the message (97%) and that we know what we need to do – share it. Now is the time for action.

Florida has now surpassed New York in population weighing it at 19.9 million people and is still growing. Georgia is also growing, approaching 10 million in 2015. Sadly to say while our population is growing church membership is not. The following chart shows our overall District membership, in terms of communicant and baptized members, has decreased. Church size has also shrunk (see Diagram 1) with the average church worshipping 145 on Sunday morning.

The LHM-FLGA Outreach Initiative (O.I.) has a goal of 3500 new believers annually. This includes child baptisms, adult confirmations and professions of faith. In 2013, the first year of our Initiative, God blessed us with 2635 new believers. We praise God for this and note the importance of our schools where many of these new believers are found. Our FLGA statistics show that nearly 10% of all baptisms occur in churches that have a school and that 20% of our adult confirmations come from families where children are enrolled in one of our schools.

Diagram 1 Church Size

District Membership	2001	2010	2013
Communicant	57,140 280 average	51,107 250 average	46,302 average 242
Baptized	72,129 353 average	63,387 average 310	56,894 average 298
Church Size			
Corporate 400+ Worship	23	12	11
Program Size 399-200 in Worship	48	43	37
Pastor Size 199-50 in Worship	54	93	96
Family Size 49 and Below in Worship	46	52	45
<u>NEW BELIEVERS</u>		2012	2013
Child Baptisms		636	987
Adult Confirmations		434	715
Professions of Faith		<u>551</u>	<u>933</u>
Totals:		1621	2635 Yr. 1 of O.I.
Outreach Goal			3500

In Diagram 2 below 8 of the top 9 congregations with child baptisms occurred in congregations with schools. The Outreach Initiative has targeted resources for schools and congregations wanting to jointly reach their community and school families.

Diagram 2 Congregations with Highest Number of Child Baptisms 2013

***denotes School or Early Childhood Center**

Congregation	Child Baptisms 2013
Trinity Delray Beach, FL *	35
Our Savior Plantation, FL *	31
Prince of Peace Orlando, FL*	30
St Michael, Fort Myer *	26
Grace Lutheran St Petersburg, FL *	25
Our Savior St Petersburg, FL *	23
St Paul Lakeland, FL *	21
Hospital de Alma Leisure City, FL	18
Holy Cross Miami, FL *	18

Adult Confirmations and Professions of faith are the remaining two areas of measurement for new believers. Of course we recall that we are but vessels of planting and watering and that it is God who provides the increase. The following two charts show us where more adult confirmations and professions of faith are occurring. What can we learn from places such as these? What are they doing to plant and water God's gospel seeds?

Missions cont.

GodConnects from LHM is an excellent resource for adult instruction and is currently being used in many of our congregations. GodConnects was created as a direct result of the Outreach Initiative. Many congregations are offering numerous adult instruction courses annually. Here is what is being said about GodConnects. "We are excited about seeing new people engaged in the study of God's Word." "This is well done, Greg Seltz does a wonderful job..." are just a few of the comments from across our District.

2013 Adult Confirmations

St Paul Weston, FL	34
Trinity Lutheran Church Summerfield, FL	32
St Paul Boca Raton, FL	31
St. John Ocala, FL	26
Our Redeemer Ocala, FL	20
Hispanic Lutheran Ministry Tampa Messiah	17
Hispanic Lutheran Ministry Tampa Family of Christ	17
Trinity Downtown Orlando, FL	16

2013 Professions of Faith

Hispanic Mission Tampa, FL	85
Trinity Summerfield, FL @ Messiah	37
Hispanic Mission Tampa @ Family of Christ	32
Gloria Dei	30
Salem Haitian Lutheran Church Lake Worth, FL	30
Prince of Peace Orlando, FL	28
Living Hope Kennesaw, GA	26



It is worthy of noting that in each of the areas measured for new believers at least one of our ethnic ministries are listed. God is blessing our efforts here as well.

The FLGA District Board of Directors has adopted the new believer's goal of 3500 and have also added growth goals in worship attendance and bible study. The chart above, Diagram 1, shows this will be a God sized goal since many of our congregations are experiencing decline in worship attendance and likely bible

class. The following chart shows FLGA congregations at the Corporate, Program, Pastor and Family size. This information is provided for networking purposes among congregations at various sizes. One church consultant suggested that a congregation should figure out what the next larger sized congregation is doing and then start doing it.

Worship Size	Congregation	Average 2013
Corporate 400+	Trinity Summerfield, FL	719
	Grace Winter Haven, FL	554
	St Paul Boca Raton, FL	550
Program Size 399-200	Marco Lutheran, Marco Island, FL	399
	Woodlands Montverde, FL	387
	Messiah Tampa, FL	383

Pastor Size 199-50	First Inverness, FL	199
	Shepherd of the Coast, FT Laud	192
	Our Redeemer Ocala, FL	189
Family Size 0-50	Christus Victor Athens, GA	52
	Good Shepherd Chiefland, FL	47
	Christ Our Savior Griffin, GA	43

The LHM/FLGA District Outreach Initiative (OI) will be assisting congregations and schools throughout the next three years to connect people to Jesus! The following are some of the new exciting opportunities that await us;

- June 19-21 Personal Outreach Experience Cumming, GA
- July 28-Aug 1 National Hispanic Conference Tampa, FL
- Nov 13-14 Regional Outreach Conference Orlando, FL
- Online Outreach Training at your pace 24/7 availability
- Outreach Best Practices from the field
- Outreach Stories from the field
- Congregational Outreach Catalyst Events
- FLGA OI Teams continue the work into the future
- Missional Community Training

Our FLGA Outreach Initiative Teams are chaired by the following people. They will assist with coordinating work with congregations and schools of the District while working closely with Lutheran Hour Ministry partners.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| • Prayer- Michelle Branham | • Schools – Mark Brink |
| • PR – Cindy Hammerstrom | • Digital and Social Media – Rev. John Rallison |
| • Presentations – Rev. Milan Weerts | • Outreach Director of OI – Rev. Doug Kallesen |
| • Cross Cultural – Rev. Adolfo Borges | |

Revitalization is also key to our strategy of increasing the mission capacity in our existing congregations. Please see Rev. Scott Gress report on Transforming Congregations Network (TCN). It is truly an exciting time for us as Christians to work together and partner in the privilege of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Other outreach ministry partners include – stop by the Exhibitor booths to meet them.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| • Lutheran Hour Ministry | • Transforming Congregations Network (TCN) |
| • Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism | • 72 Partners |
| • Voices of Faith | • Greg Finke Dwelling 114 |
| • Muslim Ministry Task Force | • Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI) |
| • Rebecca’s Garden of Hope | • Healthy Churches Network |

Missions is the Heart of God, it is necessary, it is urgent, is our mission and it is my mission!

Submitted by Reverend Doug Kallesen
Executive Director of Missions and Outreach FLGA-LCMS

School Ministries

There is much to celebrate as school ministries in the Florida-Georgia District bear witness to the redeeming love of Jesus Christ to thousands of children and their families every day! In fact, the total number of students on our school campuses on a weekly basis far outnumbers the average weekly worship attendance of the congregations in Florida-Georgia. What opportunity! It is truly mind-boggling.

At the same time, school ministry is a challenge. In 2012, it was reported that the total number of schools in congregations of the Florida-Georgia District had declined in the previous triennium by just under ten percent. Sadly, that trend continued as an additional ten percent closed in the three years since then.

While the effects of the economic downturn in the previous decade had a profound effect on nearly all ministries, the closing of schools cannot be explained away by simply stating the obvious – fiscally, they were no longer viable. In many cases, schools struggled as a result of diminished wages and lost jobs by parents of school children. The same being true for congregations as members were able to contribute less because they had less.

There are additional challenges that are undeniable.

- Charter schools in Florida have become huge competitors in many communities.
- As the population in Florida and Georgia continues to rise, the demand for quality education increases as does the number of schools competing for students.
- A declining percentage of parents are seeking **Christian** education for their children.
- Growing disconnect between congregations and their school ministries.
- School leaders are challenged more than ever to deliver excellence with diminishing resources.

<u>District Schools</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2015</u>
Free-Standing Early Childhood Centers(*)	43	43	47	48	43
Elementary/Middle Schools(**)	43	39	38	32	27
High Schools	2	2	3	1	1
Totals (***)	88	84	88	81	71

(*) Early Childhood Center without an Elementary School

(**) Most also include Early Childhood ages

(***) In addition to Florida-Georgia District schools, FG School Ministries provides limited services to 4 SELC District schools, 3 English District schools, 2 Southern District school and 1 LCMC school, and 6 ELCA schools, three of which are accredited by FG District Lutheran School Accreditation.

Schools that Closed 2012 - 2015

- Redeemer Lutheran Preschool, Bartow, FL
- Hope Lutheran Preschool, Bradenton, FL
- Trinity Lutheran Preschool, Crawfordville, FL
- Trinity Learning Center, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Miramar Lutheran Learning Center, Miramar, FL
- Our Savior Lutheran School, Lake Worth, FL
- Christ Lutheran School, East Point, GA
- St. Matthew Lutheran School, Miami, FL

School transferred to another district

Concordia School, Tampa, FL (transferred to SELC)

Eight FLGA District school ministries closed. Six of the eight were preschools. Two were ethnic school ministries. Each one represents one less door of opportunity to connect with a community of people that includes those who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. At the same time, we give thanks to God for the dedicated lay and professional leaders, teachers and support staff who worked tirelessly for the sake of the Gospel.

Schools that Opened 2012-15

None

<u>School Enrollment Statistics</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2010-2011</u>	<u>2011-2012</u>	<u>2012-2013</u>	<u>2013-2014</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>
Free Standing Early Childhood	4,597	4,725	4,661	4,438	4,616	4,974
Grades K-8	5,378	5,200	4,983	3,921	3,971	4,096
High School	139	152	155	97	114	139

Synodically Certified (Rostered) Teachers

Teachers who have earned the Lutheran Teachers Diploma after graduating from a university in the Concordia University System and who have been commissioned and installed into their initial Calls, are “Rostered” in the Synod as Ministers of Religion - Commissioned. There are four classifications of CMR’s. They are:

- **Active** – currently serving in a ministry position
- **Candidate** – not currently serving but eligible and willing to consider a Call
- **Non-Candidate** – eligible but not able or willing to consider a Call
- **Emeritus** - Retired or totally and permanently disabled

<u>Rostered Teachers</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2015</u>
Active	149	147	209	162	142
Candidate	*	*	19	35	22
Non-Candidate	*	*	33	46	85
Emeritus	*	*	47	76	74
Total	*	*	308	319	323

*Complete Data Not Available

Observation regarding this data:

- The 87% increase in Non-Candidate Commissioned Ministers is in large part attributed to the number of workers who lost positions during the economic downturn, but who wish to remain on the Roster with the potential for serving in a ministry position in the future.

Consultants/Team Captains

- Karen Smith Peace, Okeechobee, FL
- Steve Hoffschneider St. Luke's, Oviedo, FL
- Ruth Wiedenmann St. Luke's, Oviedo, FL
- Brenda Sorren Shepherd of the Coast, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- Jim Richards St. Paul, Peachtree City, GA
- Jody Schweichler Messiah, Tampa, FL

Schools Accredited 2012-15

- Trinity Preschool Athens, GA
- Advent Boca Raton, FL
- St. Paul Boca Raton, FL
- Hope Preschool Bradenton, FL
- Zion Deerfield Beach, FL
- Trinity Delray Beach, FL
- Faith Eustis, FL
- Shepherd of the Coast Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- St. Michael Ft. Myers, FL
- Zion ECC Ft. Myers, FL
- Faith Hialeah, FL
- Bethlehem P.S. Jacksonville Beach, FL
- Grace Jacksonville, FL
- Trinity Kissimmee, FL
- Trinity Tots PS Lake Placid, FL
- Epiphany ECC Lake Worth, FL
- Faith ECC N. Palm Beach, FL
- Peace ELC Naples, FL
- Good Shepherd North Ft. Myers, FL
- Holy Cross North Miami, FL
- St. John Ocala, FL
- Peace Okeechobee, FL
- St. Paul Peachtree City, GA
- Our Savior Plantation, FL
- Trinity Rockledge, FL
- Good Shepherd Sarasota, FL
- Epiphany ECC Tallahassee, FL
- Messiah Preschool Tampa, FL
- Good Shepherd PS Titusville, FL
- Faith Preschool Viera, FL
- Grace Winter Haven, FL

Florida-Georgia District Educators Conference

Twenty-five teachers and principals gathered for the first District Educators Conference in 1953. Over sixty years later, well over 400 educators attend the conference which is held two years prior to the President's Convocation. The Conference is the one time each year that educators from throughout the District gather for spiritual refreshment, professional development and fellowship among their peers.

Prior to the economic downturn, attendance at the conference approached 700. In 2008, fewer than 400 attended. Even as schools have closed and faculties have been downsized attendance at the conference is on the upswing. That is good news!

The 2012 conference was held at the Daytona Beach Hilton as educators gathered under the theme, "Connection Power." The new conference format promoted intensive interaction between the participants and presenters as well as among peers. Social media was utilized to communicate and record immediate feedback that then served as a catalyst for professional conversation and personal reflection and sharing. The "high-tech/high-touch" conference also featured the "Connections Playground" where hands-on time with high tech electronic educational equipment was made available. The 2012 conference was something of a watershed event that broke the mold and ushered the beginning of a new day in conferencing.

The 2013 conference, "Connection Power 2.0," was also held at the Hilton on Daytona Beach and built on the theme and momentum from the previous year. The conference theme focused on Colossians 1:15-29, highlighting vv. 28/29 – "We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me."

Ben Eggers Outstanding Educator Awards

Since 1986, the District Lutheran Administrators Association has presented the Dr. Ben Eggers Outstanding Lutheran School Educator Awards to honorees who were nominated by their colleagues. The awards are presented during the course of the Educators Conference. Honorees in the last triennium were:

- Nancy Dearborn Peace, Okeechobee, FL
- Barbara Dorlac St. Paul, Boca Raton, FL
- Mark Abresch St. Paul, Peachtree City, GA
- Jane Nicklas Our Savior, Plantation, FL
- Karen Smith Peace, Okeechobee, FL
- Steven Borg Trinity, Delray Beach, FL

Hearts for Jesus

Hearts for Jesus started in Florida-Georgia in 1979. Students in the schools of the District designate their chapel offerings to benefit a special mission project or human care effort. The children's offerings have purchased Bibles for children in India, built an early childhood center for orphans in Cambodia, put shoes on the feet of children in Burundi and so much more.

The devastating earthquake in Haiti in January of 2010 left 220,000 people dead and another 300,000 injured. In 2011, we committed to a three-year project to:

- Purchase, renovate and deliver a medical missions bus for use in Haiti
- Purchase land for the construction of an orphanage for boys in the village of Poto
- Pay for the drilling of a fresh water well on the property
- Complete construction of the orphanage

We reported at the 2012 convention that the bus was purchased, renovated, delivered and was being used in Haiti. At this convention we can report that the land was purchased the well has been drilled and construction of the orphanage is underway! The current year's project is to raise \$25,000 to support the work of Rebecca's Garden of Hope which provides tutoring and mentoring to children who are underserved and at risk.

While it is the children and their teachers who, by the grace of God, make Hearts for Jesus successful, Thrivent Financial has been a strong partner with us for many years. We are grateful to them for their contributions toward reaching our goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Mark Brink
Executive Director School Ministry & Youth

Acceptance Speech 2015

My dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus,

As we come to the close of this convention, I am once again deeply humbled and honored to have your support to serve another term as the District President of the Florida-Georgia District. It was never in my plans to be honest. As many of you know, I grew up in New York as part of the Atlantic District. I'm a proud graduate of Concordia College, Bronxville. When I graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1987 Edith and I really felt strongly that we wanted to go home to serve in New York. God had a better plan, and I began my early ministry in the farthest outpost in the Florida-Georgia District at that time. From those early days, under the leadership of the sainted **Lloyd Behnken**, I learned to quickly love the Florida-Georgia District. I had the great privilege of serving with former President **Tom Zehnder**, who inspired me to become a District Board of Director member and mentored me, and whom I am blessed to call friend. I then had the great privilege of working with former President **Gerhard Michael**, who is such a steady and brilliant leader, another mentor and friend. All that to say that the Lord has used the Florida-Georgia District to shape my life and ministry for almost 30 years and I am proud to serve this District as the District President.

Your investment in me, your trust, is very important. Often I am faced with impossible decisions that impact lives, and people look to me as if I have the *Wisdom of Solomon*. The truth is, while I have learned a great deal over the past six years, I've learned to be a man of prayer, learning to trust the Lord. Sometimes I get it right, and sometimes I simply struggle to know what's right. Like each of you, I cling to God's grace in Jesus and do my best, which sometimes leaves someone disappointed. My desire is always to work toward reconciliation and to bring the peace of Jesus to the workers and congregations of our District. I want you to know that this isn't always easy. However, I am committed to working toward that end.

I have also learned that I have to be intentional about my family life, even as I encourage all our workers to be. I am grateful for **Edith**, for her patience, for her willingness to travel with me, for her ministry to me and to the ministries we visit. It is far too easy to be consumed by the never ending tasks of ministry and to allow my priorities to get out of balance. While it is my privilege to serve this District, God has given to me my wife and children, and now my granddaughter as very special gifts and as the first order of priority. I made my commitment to Edith before I was ordained, and I take that vow seriously. There are times, when because of schedule, I'm away from home, sometimes for weeks at a time. Edith understands that. However, there will be days when I'm away from the District to be with her, or to be with my children. Brothers and sisters, DO NOT neglect family or family commitments. I will continue to strive for this in my own life and family.

As we look to the next triennium, the focus in the District will be on outreach. Of course, this has *always* been the mission focus of this District, but we want to devote additional energy and resource to reaching out. This is a *critical target* for the District and, in part, why we have partnered with Lutheran Hour Ministries, among others. The need around us is so urgent. The Church (with a big C) seems to be losing so much ground, and many of our District congregations are seeing members disappear and attendance slip for a variety of reasons. Here's what I know: If we want to see the church grow it begins with investing in, and developing, *relationships* with people. I do not advocate compromising our doctrinal positions or our historical heritage. I believe that we must stop expending so much effort on protecting our doctrine and heritage and simply start living it out as we live in the world as Lutheran Christians. We talk a lot about what we believe, and we're good at this. But the world around us already looks *suspiciously* at the church,

and feels we're *hypocritical* and that our words don't often *match* our actions, really doesn't care what we say. What good does it profit a man if he can proclaim with clarity the truth but doesn't reflect it in how he lives it out? If we're to survive in this current day as the church, and we have so much to offer to the world in Jesus, then we can't simply hide away in our churches and hope that people will come to us and adapt to our traditions. We need to bring them to the truth, but it requires that we DO something to reach them! It means moving into the community incarnationally!

Many of you remember when the word EVANGELISM went the way of the dinosaur. Many felt that the word was over-used and somewhat abused. We saw a trend moving away from the term "evangelism" toward the word "OUTREACH." The truth is, I'm not entirely sure this is the best term either. What if we simply made the effort to intentionally build relationships with people all around us, whether at work, or at the gym, in school, in the grocery store. What if we actually invested the time and energy into caring about others more than ourselves, more than our customs, more than our programs, even more than our buildings? **Customs, programs, and buildings won't draw people to Jesus.** You and I are the ones chosen by Jesus to draw people to Him by the Holy Spirit working in us. Jesus said, ***"You did not choose Me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last..."***

Mr. Bill Gaik, who you saw honored as a Servant of Christ yesterday, once shared this question with the Board of Directors, which I have often used since: *"If your church ceased to exist in your community, would anyone miss it?"* Wrestle with that for a few seconds... What impact have the members of your congregation made on the surrounding community by caring, being involved, and being concerned for the sake of Jesus? Has it been enough that the community would be sad or negatively impacted, if your congregation were no longer there? **Would it leave a void?** Has your congregation, because of their actions and interests in your community, made enough of an impact on it, so that people would be sad that your congregation is no longer there? Would they say, *"Those were the people that always did ..."*? You can fill in the blank. What are you **known for** in your community in a positive way? Many a church in our day have gained notoriety for a bad reputation, but that's not what we're looking for. In the early Christian community, Tertullian reported that the Romans would see the Christians and exclaim, ***"See how they love one another!"*** The love of the early Christian Church wasn't limited simply to their fellow believers. Christians also lovingly helped non-believers: the poor, the orphans, the elderly, the sick, the shipwrecked—even their persecutors. In Mt 5, Jesus said, ***"Love your enemies ... and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you"*** The early Christians *accepted* this statement as a command from their Lord, rather than as an *ideal* that couldn't be actually practiced in real life. What kind of impact do you think we would have on our neighborhoods if we actually made strides to live this out and love people like Jesus?

In the next five to six years I hope to hear of the wonderful things our congregations are doing in their communities as they **engage in the Master's business** and connect people to Jesus. I pray that we'll see people from our congregations building relationships in their community and congregations gaining the reputation of being loving, caring communities of believers. I believe we'll see stronger leadership, not only among our professional church workers, but also among our laity. I believe we will continue to see congregations grow as they reach people, one at a time, and share the love of Jesus in ways that draw them to the foot of the cross. We can make a difference, every one of us, regardless of our station or time, regardless of our perceived ability or situation in life. I pray that the Holy Spirit would move in our hearts in such a way that we find a greater way to blend our traditions and the legacy that belongs to the Lutheran Church with our being more mission minded, connecting people to Jesus.

We have such a tremendous history as a Florida-Georgia District for the past 67 years as being mission minded, reaching into a variety of ethnicities and cultures, sharing the overwhelming forgiveness and love of Jesus, engaging in the Master's business. When we gather again in 2018 we will celebrate our 70th Anniversary as a District—no small feat. It will be a grand celebration. Looking across the history and having participated in many congregational anniversaries over the past three years, I am always *amazed* how God used a group of people to respond to the need to share His grace in Jesus, in a particular community. I can think of no mission congregation that began with the thought and hope of becoming an exclusive country club community, open *only* to those who meet the strict requirements. Instead, almost every one of our congregations **began** with a deep **passion** to share the faith in Jesus that claimed us as God's own. Missionary people *recognized* that we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God **so that** we can declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Some claim that the best days of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are behind us. I say that the **best days are still ahead** as we work together, engaged in the Master's business, connecting people to Jesus. There is still much to do, and I am **proud to lead** the charge to serve, assist and encourage this District, along with my very capable staff, as we seek to equip, empower and engage to connect people to Jesus. I thank you for this trust, but I ask for your partnership, you're your support, your patience and your prayers. **Together we are stronger and far more capable to have an impact on hearts and lives for Jesus.** We are the Florida-Georgia District, some 200 plus ministries, some 6000 plus people, covering a third of the Eastern Seaboard, walking together as Synod in this very special and wonderful place we call home, committed to proclaiming Jesus through Word and Sacrament, and sharing His love with all in need. God will continue to bless our work in His harvest field, and He will continue to open opportunities before us, **as we keep our eyes on Jesus.** It's all about Jesus and the difference we know He makes in the lives of sinful people. May we together commit ourselves, as we look toward our 70th Anniversary, to engage in the Master's business—connecting people to Jesus.

Again, I am so grateful and honored to serve you and **serve with you.** I would covet your prayers, your continued patience and your partnership. I pledge to you my desire and commitment to serve you as together **we serve Jesus**, keeping our eyes on Him. Thank you for your trust, for your friendship, for your prayers, for your support, and for your mission spirit. I pray God's blessings on each of you, **and on us**, that together we might be seen as His disciples, living out His love in faith, as we **engage in the Master's business.**

Thank you for your attention delegates and thank you, Mr. Chairman.