



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

Workbook

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. I want to thank you for your willingness to serve as a delegate to the 32nd Regular Convention of the Florida-Georgia District. A time of celebration awaits us as we gather to grow and engage in the Master's business. We are privileged to reach out in His mission fields by equipping, empowering and engaging—connecting people to Jesus!



Enclosed is the workbook for the 32nd Regular Convention of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, to be held in Orlando, Florida June 12-14, 2015. We wanted to get the enclosed materials to you in plenty of time and invite you to study them so that you will be well equipped to participate meaningfully in our triennial convention.

Our convention theme, "Engaged in the Master's Business," is based on the parable in Luke 19 (*ESV), where we read, "As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, '**Engage in business until I come.**'"

When we gather for convention it is generally congregational leaders who attend. You are God's chosen leaders in the places where He has called you, whether pastoral or lay. This convention will focus on moving beyond the boundaries of a church campus into the communities where God has placed us. It begins with leaders showing the way, even as Jesus did for each of us. During these next three years we will consider how we have been called to make disciples, and to do that means reaching into the world around us, knowing the needs, and meeting them for the sake of Jesus. This is exactly what our Lord Jesus did. Rarely do we find Him in the synagogue or temple. Mostly He was out among the people, listening, caring, sharing and encouraging. You and I have been called to the same kind of ministry. My hope is that our convention will inspire us to action.

During the District convention we will have time to worship, pray, and study the Word of God, as well as laugh and celebrate our partnership in the Gospel. Our essayist is the Rev. Dr. John Denninger, President of the Southeastern District, who serves a large and diverse District, like ours, where outreach is an active part of the ministry, particularly in neighborhoods. They have some exciting things going on and he will be sharing some ways that we can reach out. Our convention chaplain will be the Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser, pastor of Woodlands Lutheran Church, Montverde, FL, and our Bible Study Leader will be Dr. Kurt Senske, CEO of Upbringing/Lutheran Social Services of the South. A special guest presentation will be from Cindy Steinbeck, author and CEO of Steinbeck Vineyard and Winery, who will share with us about the Vine and the Branches. Synod President Matthew Harrison will be with us Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning to share information about our Synod and take time for questions and answers. All in all, it will be a great time to engage in fellowship, study, business and worship!

This Workbook includes reports from the circuit visitors, the various commissions and advisory councils in our District, the staff, both present and former, and key ministry partners, together with the overtures which have been submitted for consideration. Additionally, the Floor Committees have developed Resolutions based on these overtures. These are all part of this mailing.

Since the custom in the Florida-Georgia District has been weekend conventions, worship resources will be provided for all congregations in mid-May, including a suggested order of service. A sermon has been provided by Rev. Douglas Kallesen, Executive Director of Missions and Outreach.

I am looking forward to this 32nd Regular Convention and pray that it will open our eyes to the opportunities all around us to be about the Master's business and connect people to Jesus. As we gather to be built up, may we be engaged so that we can better engage others with the love and grace of Jesus. Many blessings on your preparations and travel plans! If you have any questions don't hesitate to visit our web page or contact the District Office. See you in Orlando!

Peace in Jesus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rev. Gregory S. Walton'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'W'.

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



A Word about our Convention Logo

The Logo for the 32nd Regular District Convention focuses on the third emphasis of our Vision Statement. The Vision of the Florida-Georgia District is to Equip, Empower, and Engage, Connecting People to Jesus. These three emphases correlate with our critical targets of leadership, congregations and outreach. Leaders are equipped for ministry and service. Congregations are empowered by Word and Sacrament. As we are engaged in the world, we naturally reach out to those who don't know Jesus. While each of these elements are ongoing, in the next triennium the focus will be on this idea of engaging.

Engaged in the Master's business comes from Luke 19:13. In the parable the master hands out resources and then instruction. He says, "Engage in business until I return." As stewards of God's grace, empowered by His Word. We are to engage in the Master's business. This is exactly the instruction with which our Lord Jesus charges each of us. It was with this in mind that we developed the theme for this convention. Jesus, in Matthew 9:37, said, "Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." As we see the church around us in decline, our hearts can't help but be moved to action. There is an urgency in our Lord's command to go and make disciples of all nations. His Word is clear, and so is His call.

Visiting a vineyard this past summer gave me a whole new appreciation and insight into the work that Jesus calls each of us to in John 15:5 and 8. He says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing...By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples." A branch grafted into the Vine, as it is nurtured and taken care of, will naturally produce fruit. We, who are so richly cared for with Word and Sacrament, should be overflowing in carrying out the Father's desire to see all people saved. Jesus reminds us, in John 15:16, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you."

In the logo you see the green harvest field or vineyard, bordered by a Cross, which leads to the Word and Sacrament. This is what empowers us to engage in the Master's business. We go out into the world, well-resourced and carrying the good news of Jesus. This is our mission field, and all around us is the mission. Now is the time for us to be engaged in the Master's business! It's not about grapes or vineyards. It's always about people. We go in His power, with His Word, to connect people to Jesus. May this logo serve as a reminder of our calling to engage in the Master's business.



**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

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

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

2015 District Convention Floor Committees

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

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.

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FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
(Current operating version)

FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
(Proposed Revisions)

Tentative 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
7:25 p.m.	Bible Study I – Dr. Kurt Senske
7:45 p.m.	Break <i>Doulos tou Christo</i> Award – Commissioned Minister of Religion Essay Presentation 1 – 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 Leadership, and Bylaw Resolutions Presentations <i>Doulos tou Christo</i> Award – Lay Person
10:00 a.m.	Break
10:20 a.m.	Ingathering Presentations Missions & Outreach Presentations Outreach Resolutions
12:00 p.m.	Lunch – hosted by Thrivent

Saturday, June 13, 2015, cont.

- 1:00 p.m. **Session III**
Special Presentation – Ms. Cindy Steinbeck
Ratification of Circuit Visitors
School & Youth Ministries
- 3:10 p.m. Break
- 3:30 p.m. Regional Elections
Congregation Resolutions
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
Lutheran Church Extension Fund
- 10:05 a.m. Break
- 10:25 a.m. *Doulos tou Christo* Award – Ordained Minister
Essay Presentation II – The Rev. Dr. John Denninger
District Stewardship Advisory Council
Unfinished Convention Business
Elections
- 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.**

Our Ingathering Recipients are:

Georgia
Stepping Stone Ministries
Atlanta

Sharing the Hope of Jesus Christ!

Stepping Stone Mission is a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Our mission is to share the good news of Jesus Christ with our homeless brothers and sisters. We provide the homeless with food and basic necessities, and help along the way toward rehabilitation, the healing of one's life, and stability. For more information, please visit www.steppingstonemission.net.

Their request is for: backpacks, shoulder bags, etc. that the homeless can use to carry their belongings.

Florida
Redeeming Life Maternity Home
Sanford
Faith ~ Family ~ Education

Motivated by God's grace, R.L.M.H. seeks to reach out to women with the love of Christ to support single, expectant, and post-partum mothers. We do this by providing a safe, stable, Christ-centered home with opportunities for growth in their relationship with their Savior, as well as career, parenting, and life skills education, that they might love and care for their children as God loves and cares for them.

Their request is for: Onesies, newborns to 12 months, and diapers sizes 1, 2, or 3.

Speaker Biographies

**The Rev. Dr. John R. Denninger, President
Southeastern District, LCMS**



Growing Up Family

John Richard Denninger was born July 21, 1954 in Hannibal, Missouri. He spent most of his growing up years in Fort Wayne, IN where both of his parents continued their careers as Lutheran administrator/educators. His mother, Florene, (age 92) still lives in Fort Wayne since John's father died Christmas, 1995. John is the youngest of four siblings (Doris - died of Lou Gehrig's disease March, 2001, David, and Lois).

Present Family

John and Constance (Graft) will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on August 8. They met as fifth and sixth graders at Bethlehem Lutheran School, Ossian, IN. God continues to bless their lives through their three daughters: Jessica, Laura, and Sara, all Cornhuskers, born in Kearney, Nebraska.

- Jessica Meier, is married to Daniel.
- Laura Schumacher, married to Joshua. Their first child, our first grandchild, Griffin Joshua Schumacher, was born on April 9, 2014.
- Sara Wilson, is married to Joshua.
- Connie is a family life educator, having taught Preschool, Junior and Senior High. She has most recently served as Director of Women's Ministry at Prince of Peace. She recently completed her second Master's Degree at Concordia University—Chicago in the area of Church and Community Lea

Ministry Education and Experience

John attended

- Concordia Junior College, Ann Arbor, Michigan (1972-74)
- Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Indiana (1974-76)
- Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri (1976-80)

After serving his vicarage at Faith Lutheran Church, Vista, California he served in three ministries:

- Sole Pastor - Trinity Lutheran Church, Auburn, Nebraska (1980-84)
- Campus Pastor – Campus Lutheran, University of Nebraska—Kearney (1984-1988)
- Associate Pastor (1988-1996) and Senior Pastor (1996-2012) at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Springfield, VA

In May, 2000 he was awarded the Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA.

Service in the Larger Church

Prior to his election as President of the Southeastern District, LCMS in June 2012 he served two terms as 1st Vice-President and two terms as Secretary of the Southeastern District. He has enjoyed

participating and serving in multiple roles at the Circuit and District level in both the Nebraska and the Southeastern Districts, in addition to other ministry organizations outside the congregation he has served.

Service in the Community

Following 9-11, Pastor Denninger was appointed by the Fairfax County Executive to represent the 1400 faith communities of Fairfax County on the Citizen Corp Council (a Department of Homeland Security program organizing citizens in emergency preparedness and response.) Until recently he chaired the Interfaith Emergency Planning Steering Committee for Fairfax County, which was awarded the 2006 Fairfax County Volunteer of the Year for their work in emergency planning and preparedness. In addition he served on the Executive Planning Team of Fairfax County Faith Communities in Action.

Dr. Kurt M. Senske



Dr. Kurt Senske serves as Chief Executive Officer of Upbringing/Lutheran Social Services of the South (LSSS), a multi-faceted, multi-state, social service agency with an annual operating budget of over \$80 million and 900 employees. During his tenure at LSSS, he has been responsible for more than tripling the size of the agency and steering the once-troubled agency back to financial stability.

Dr. Senske completed his undergraduate work at Concordia University-Texas and Valparaiso University in Indiana, majoring in Accounting with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He holds a law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law, a Master's Degree in International Relations from Schiller International University in Paris, France, and a Ph.D. in Government from the University of Texas at Austin.

Prior to working at LSSS, Dr. Senske served as Assistant to the President at Concordia University-Texas. Dr. Senske also practiced law in Chicago, Illinois with several law firms, including the firm of Hinshaw & Culbertson. In addition, he has served as a senior staff member and consultant for candidates and government leaders at local, state and national levels in both the Republican and Democratic Parties.

Dr. Senske's extensive board service included having served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Thrivent Financial, a Fortune 500 financial services organization. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Dr. Senske is the author of four books, *Wine and the Word: Savor and Serve*; *The Calling: Live a Life of Significance*; *Executive Values: A Christian Approach to Organizational Leadership*, and *Personal Values: God's Game Plan For Life*.

A gifted public speaker, Dr. Senske has also been a guest columnist on a variety of issues for newspapers and magazines as well as a regular commentator on television and radio.

Dr. Senske, his wife, Laurie, and their daughter, Sydney live in Austin, Texas.

Cindy Steinbeck



Cindy is a fifth generation Paso Robles, CA farmer working with her parents, brother and son at Steinbeck Vineyards & Winery. She shares ownership with her family in their various businesses and serves as director of marketing, sales and public relations. Cindy launched educational tours in her vineyard, using a vintage Jeep she grew up driving. She also created the family wine brand.

Cindy has written *The Vine Speaks* and *The Grapes of Grace*, Concordia Publishing House. This work reflects her passion for the vineyards and Scriptures which she communicates in an in-depth study of Jesus' words, "I am the vine" from John 15.

Cindy holds a Master of Arts in History and Theology from Concordia University Irvine where she serves on the Board of Regents. Cindy's diverse life as vineyard owner, farmer, teacher, business strategist, writer and mom has provided amazing life experiences from which her touching stories and humor flows. Her passion for God's word and work is the foundation of her thinking, writing and being. Cindy's two children, their spouses and her two grandchildren live in Paso Robles.

www.steinbeckwines.com

www.cindysteinbeck.com

facebook: Cindy Steinbeck !!

A Primer Of Parliamentary Procedure

A. Purpose of Parliamentary Law and Procedure

Parliamentary procedure assists a deliberative and decision-making assembly in carrying out its purpose and aims in an orderly, fair, and expeditious manner.

It is not the purpose of parliamentary procedure to make the conduct of business in an assembly difficult, to entangle an assembly in technicalities, or to provide a channel for individuals to flaunt their parliamentary knowledge.

Parliamentary law protects six basic rights:

- 1) The right of the majority to make a decision;
- 2) The right of the minority to be heard in hopes that it may become the majority;
- 3) The right of absentees to be protected;
- 4) The right of the assembly to be comfortable and to hear;
- 5) The right of the individual member to be honored;
- 6) And the orderly consideration of one subject at a time.

B. Basic Steps of Parliamentary Procedure

The chairman and members of the assembly should be acquainted with and observe eight basic parliamentary steps to take care of convention business in an orderly and fair manner. They are:

Members:

- 1) Address the chair. "Mr. Chairman" (or Mr. President)
- 2) Await recognition by the Chair.
- 3) Make the motion. "I move that..."
- 4) Second the motion. (Unless not required)

Chair:

- 5) State the motion. (Or rules it out of order)
- 6) Calls for discussion. (Unless motion is undebatable) "Is there any discussion?" or "Are there any remarks?" Ample opportunity must always be given for expression of opinion and for discussion.
- 7) Takes the vote. (Or "Puts the question")
- 8) State the results.
"The 'ayes' have it and the motion is carried." Or, "The 'noes' have it and the motion is lost."
The vote does not go into effect until the results are announced.

Basic Parliamentary Principles For The Florida-Georgia District Convention

- 1) The district delegate convention is a parliamentary assembly called to deliberate and to make decisions. It receives the reports of the District President and the Board of Directors. In addition, the convention deliberates and makes decisions on recommended resolutions of designated floor committees which have considered proposed resolutions (overtures) from congregations.
- 2) All voting delegates have equal rights, privileges, and obligations.
- 3) The vote of the majority decides. The will of a district convention is determined by the taking of a vote.
- 4) Free discussion of every proposition or resolution presented for decision is an established right for all delegates, voting and advisory. To accomplish the closure of debate, a delegate must gain the recognition of the chair and, without any comment for or against the pending resolution, say, "I move the previous question." If seconded, this motion is put to an immediate vote. If adopted by a two-thirds majority, discussion is finished and the pending resolution is put to the assembly without further debate. The convention has the right to decide when it has heard sufficient discussion. This right, however, should be exercised with restraint.
- 5) Both proponents and opponents of a given proposal have rights which must be safeguarded. The decision belongs to the majority, but the right to discuss, the right to be heard, and the right to oppose should be upheld. A member of the majority on one question is often a member of the minority on another.
- 6) The simplest and most direct parliamentary procedure for accomplishing a purpose should be followed rather than taking devious routes and multiplying technicalities.
- 7) Every delegate has the right to know what question is before the convention and what its effect will be, for every action taken by a deliberative body should be taken knowledgeably.
- 8) Voting delegates are not bound and are not to be bound by previous instructions of their home or neighboring congregations.
- 9) Each member of the convention, when recognized by the chair, shall state their name, the name of their congregation or of the administrative unit represented.
- 10) Questions of privilege shall ordinarily be addressed in writing to the chair, or its appointee, instead of consuming convention time.
- 11) Resolutions prepared by the floor committees which are not acted upon by the convention before adjournment die. The subject matter may be reintroduced at the next convention by means of an overture.

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- 12) Unless covered by these standing rules of the convention, parliamentary procedure shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised (1981 edition).
 - 13) The “*Behnken Rule*” which governs the introduction of substitute motions will be employed. The “*Behnken Rule*” is this: When a substitute motion is offered in place of a motion that is being discussed, the chair may ask the assembly by a vote if it wants to consider the substitute motion. If the assembly votes by majority to support discussion of that substitute motion, then the original motion is set aside, the substitute motion taking its place. If after any discussion the substitute motion is approved by the assembly, the original motion is dead. If the substitute motion is not approved by the assembly, then the original motion comes back to the assembly for any discussion and decision.
 - 14) The two-minute rule shall apply for all who speak from the floor and for the committee during debate. (During debate, the two-minute rule for speaking to the motion shall apply to the floor committee and to all speakers from the floor.)

President's Report

Let me set the stage just a little. Jesus tells 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 two trienniums we have specifically focused on Leadership and Congregations - 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.

President's Report cont.

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 results. 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 97% 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.

President's Report cont.

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.

President's Report cont.

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.

President's Report cont.

In addition, there was insufficient infrastructure in terms of hotels and restaurants. Now, 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 in June of 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.

President's Report cont.

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 hoedown 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.

President's Report cont.

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.

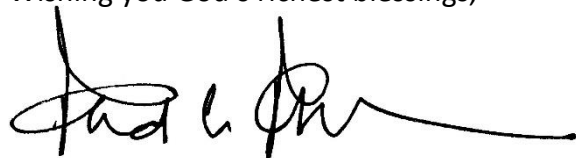
Immeasurably More: God desires your members to align their resources with a response of generosity. Guiding you through the Immeasurably More process, your professional Lutheran consultants will invite your members to put their faith in motion and experience the tremendous joy of generous living and 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		*Worshipping 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
NEW BELIEVERS		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
- PR – Cindy Hammerstrom
- Presentations – Rev. Milan Weerts
- Cross Cultural – Rev. Adolfo Borges
- Schools – Mark Brink
- Digital and Social Media – Rev. John Rallison
- Outreach Director of OI – Rev. Doug Kallesen

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

National Lutheran School/Florida-Georgia District Accreditation

National Lutheran School/Florida-Georgia District Accreditation is a rigorous process that is designed to foster school improvement. The goal of our District Accreditation Commission is for every school in the Florida-Georgia District to become NLSA/FG District accredited.

<u>Accredited Schools Statistics</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2015</u>
Free Standing Early Childhood	10/43 23.3%	10/47 21.3%	12/48 25%	16/43 37.2%
Elementary/Middle Schools	31/39 79.5%	33/38 86.6%	28/32 87.5%	24/27 88.9%
High Schools	2/2 100%	2/3 66.7%	1/1 100%	1/1 100%
Total	43/84 51.2%	45/88 51.1%	41/81 50.6%	41/71 57.7%

The Florida-Georgia District continues to be the leader among districts of the Synod in the percentage of Free-Standing Early Childhood Centers that are NLSA accredited. This is a tribute to professional and lay leaders who are committed to providing the very best Christian early childhood experience for children in their care.

In March, 2015, NLSA/FG Gold was certified for Gold Seal accreditation in the State of Florida. FG Gold maintains the high standards and ministry focus of NLSA accreditation, while integrating additional standards for Gold Seal. Early Childhood Centers that earn Gold Seal accreditation are eligible to receive additional State funding for children who qualify.

NLSA is also recognized as a partner in the accrediting process with AdvancEd which accredits public and private schools from elementary through higher education in many states in the eastern half of the United States as well as in many foreign countries.

The Florida-Georgia District is an Accrediting Member of the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools which represents over 300,000 children in nonpublic schools in the State of Florida.

The District Accreditation Commission is led by Commissioner, Glenn Moening. Glenn works tirelessly by managing the accreditation process to ensure that its integrity is not compromised. We are deeply indebted to Glenn and those who serve on the Commission as well as those who serve as Team Captains and team members, for their undying commitment to the accreditation process and to helping schools be successful in pursuit of their missions. The cadre of trained consultants who lead school visits and review annual reports, verifying that schools are indeed making acceptable progress toward meeting established goals includes:

- Leo Raschke St. Paul, Lakeland, FL
- Roger Walker Grace, Winter Haven, FL
- Pat Weingart Concordia, Tampa, FL
- Jon Peterson Grace, Winter Haven, FL
- Kathy Knudtson Faith, N. Palm Beach, FL
- Pat Leupold Oviedo, FL

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

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- 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

Circuit 1 – Northeast Georgia – The Reverend David P. Wesche

Christus Victor Lutheran Church and Student Center, Athens, GA, Pastor Greg Michael

As baptized people of God, Christus Victor Lutheran Church and Student Center continues to live in and share Christ's victory. She has been blessed with ongoing opportunities to connect with students on the campus of UGA and the Athens community. The last triennium has seen the addition of a second Sunday morning service and the expansion of the Life 173 study on Sunday evenings. God's mission has led her to partner with Trinity in Athens to plant Christ the King Lutheran in Commerce, GA. It also has brought her to New Jersey, Panama, and Estero, FL for its annual Spring Break mission trips. In addition, the congregation sent Pr. Greg and Kelly Michael to Cambodia to teach a New Testament survey course with the Luther Institute of Southeast Asia. (Pastor Greg Michael)

Trinity Lutheran Church, Athens, GA, Senior Pastor, David Heller; Associate Pastor, Aaron Reinking

Trinity-Athens continues to minister to the community through our school and church programs. God has blessed Trinity's ministries these past three years. We've seen the support of a son of the congregation as he began and completed the SMP program (Ft. Wayne, IN) and is now ordained and starting a mission plant (Christ the King) in Commerce, GA with the combined support of Trinity and Christus Victor. Trinity also supported our school principal as she completed the SLED program. Trinity's separate full-day daycare and half-day preschool programs were combined and renamed Trinity Lutheran Academy. The Academy recently obtained the National Lutheran Schools Accreditation. We have updated all policy and procedures manuals for both the church and school as well as all staff job descriptions. Our yarnworks and quilting ministries supply quilts and crocheted/knitted items to those in need in the community, to different area charities as well as members who are under the weather or celebrating life occasions. The Stephen Ministry program has recently trained five new ministers. A small group ministry has been initiated with eight active small groups. Trinity has hosted two Alzheimer's/dementia seminars for the public and has begun an annual Red Cross blood drive. The youth ministry is being reenergized. Trinity has made some changes to its physical plant: total roof replacement, parking lot resurfacing, and all the pine trees on Trinity's property were harvested. Currently a plan is being laid out to re-landscape the campus – with studies to consider any additional buildings for future ministry.

All Saints Lutheran Church, Blairsville, GA, Pastor Dave Wesche

All Saints Lutheran Church (Blairsville, GA) continues to minister as the northernmost mission outpost of the District. We move in the seasonal rhythms of climate and guests who worship and involve themselves in our ministry. During the past triennium, All Saints has continued its effort to engage and connect with the Blairsville community and the tri-state area (NC and TN) with a ministry and message of Jesus.

First, through a cooperative effort with a number of local Christian churches, we continue to minister to the local people who are in need and at risk due to their financial situations. With our financial and people gifts, we provide assistance, guidance, godly counsel, and prayer through Hope House, Healing Hands, and an Ecumenical Food Bank.

Second, All Saints has begun to develop its "Embrace of Grace" ministry. We have trained five people to provide a "listening" ministry to assist people with needed support and encouragement in the difficult moments of life. In the expansion of this ministry, we also are designing a system to arrange for

provisions of assistance in these times of crisis. This assistance will take the form of meals, visitation, transportation for appointments, light housework and yard upkeep, etc.

Third, the Worship Facility of All Saints was refurbished in 2014. The 110+ year old pews were replaced and new carpet was installed in time for Easter services. The audio system was updated to provide a clearer and cleaner sound for worship. In addition, a wooden processional cross was handcrafted by one of the members and dedicated at Christmas Eve worship.

Finally, All Saints hired a new part-time staff member to handle its media and community relations. Since May, 2014, we have repurposed our congregational business card for use by the pastor and members, updated our Website with ideas learned at the LHM workshops, and created a Facebook page and YouTube site (featuring our Take2 videos).

During 2015, we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the congregation and the 10th Anniversary of Pastor Wesche's ordination. The celebration will culminate on the congregation's birthdate of November 1 with two worship services. The 10:30 AM Worship will be led by Pastor Chuck Houska, our 3rd pastor, and President Greg Walton will preach at the 4:00 PM Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Gainesville, GA, Pastor Zach Hoffman

Over the last three years, Good Shepherd has been blessed with growth in its facilities, staff, and ministry. In November of 2012, an expansion project for new offices and classrooms was completed. In June of 2013, Good Shepherd saw the completion of a new fellowship hall and youth room. Wynn Derong began as a DCE intern in June of 2012, and the following June he was called to serve as DCE. On November 9th, 2014, Pastor David Sieg concluded his service as interim pastor and Pastor Zach Hoffman was installed as pastor that afternoon. Good Shepherd currently has 100 members participating in small groups, a food pantry that serves the community four days a week, and two mission trips a year to Guatemala and Nicaragua. In 2015, we are prayerfully seeking to initiate a contemporary worship service and to renew an emphasis on spending time in prayer and the Word.

Oak Road Lutheran Church, Lilburn, GA, Pastor Scott Holder

No Report

Trinity Lutheran Church, Toccoa, GA, and Grace Lutheran Mission (Clarkeville, GA)—Pastor Dave Kehret, Intentional Interim

Following the resignation of Pastor Peter Grana, Trinity and Grace were counseled by the FL-GA District to seek a trained Intentional Interim Pastor. After interviewing and being interviewed by Pastor David Kehret, they chose to call him to that position and entered into a contract to that extent with Pastor Kehret and the FL-GA District. He began serving them in September, 2012. Fall and Spring of 2012-13 saw a healing of conflicts both within and between the two assemblies. In Fall of 2013, a joint Congregation-Wide Self-Study was begun and conducted by a joint task force. Historical and demographic studies were conducted and published. In June 2014, a final report "Doing Ministry as Trinity and Grace" was presented to and accepted by both assemblies. With common goals and a consensus regarding characteristics to be sought in a new settled pastor, a joint Trinity-Grace Call Committee began its work in Fall of 2014 under the guidance of the FL-GA District.

Circuit 2 – Atlanta North – The Reverend Ray Borchelt

Christ the King Lutheran Church Mission, Commerce, GA

No Report

Faith Lutheran Church and School, Marietta, GA - "Connecting People to Jesus" Reaching...those separated from God! Teaching...the Good News of Salvation! Growing....in Faith and Service

Under the leadership of Carl Schneider, Pastor and Daryl Kruse, Principal, Faith Lutheran Church and School is striving to Connect People to Jesus. We thank God for His blessings upon our congregation and school. To God be the glory! 2013-2014 has been a year of staff changes. July 2014, Mr. Daryl Kruse accepted our call as Principal of Faith Lutheran School. July 2014, Mrs. Patti Kruse was added to our school staff. July 2014, Mr. Thomas Walkenhorst was added to our staff as school Music Director. August 2014, Mrs. Vauda Noerenberg was added as our church organist. December 20, 2014, SMP Pastor Elect Thomas Boeck was ordained. Ministry Highlights / events - September 2014 - 2016 Transforming Church Networks Season 1 to start in September 2014 and expected completion of Season 4 in Spring 2016. Completed two unfinished classrooms (Fall 2013). Added a Science Lab. Added a Part Time Art Teacher. Added a total campus security video system with more than 50 cameras campus-wide (both inside and out). All Classrooms K-8 are now equipped with Smart Boards and we added a 24 station computer lab on a cart. Festival of Faith May 2014 – Featured our students from Faith Lutheran both vocal and instrumental and Christian groups - Starboarders and Remedy Drive. It was a great evening of entertainment, education, outreach and fun for congregation and community - all to God be the glory!! We, the members of Faith Lutheran Church and School, offer this all in praise to our Great God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - from whom all blessings flow!

Faith Korean Lutheran Church Mission, Marietta, GA

No Report

Grace Lutheran Church, Atlanta, GA

No Report

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Rome, GA

Over the past several years, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has been experiencing a slow come back from the disruption of families having to move away to find employment and lessened finances due to the past economic problems of the country. But depending on God's grace and supply, we continue on. The past three years have seen a shift of inward programs to outward programs for the community. Besides inviting the usual community choirs into our sanctuary to perform, we have partnered with and provide space for a non-profit organization, Building Positive Families, to hold positive parenting class for the community. This organization also offers fatherhood classes. Our members are very big into feeding the hungry through monetary and volunteer worker support, joining together with a neighborhood Baptist church, to staff a food bank in the neighborhood. A group of ladies, with hearts for the welfare of children, makes items for the local police department and women's shelters to give to the children in time of crisis to make it a little less traumatic for them. We also offer space for the testing of companion dogs that visit nursing homes and hospitals. Lately, we have put an "Art & Soul" program into place where the instructor teaches classes of both children and adults how to paint a picture that is based on a Bible verse. In this 2015 year, we celebrate 60 years of existence as a Lutheran Church in Rome, Georgia. We are the only Lutheran church, but we are and ever shall remain "The Best Lutheran Church in Rome, Georgia."

King of Kings Lutheran Church Mission, Jasper, GA

No Report

Living Faith Lutheran Church, Cumming, GA

The saints at Living Faith are doing well. The word of God, the Gospel of Christ, and the Sacraments are having their great effect. The new church building was dedicated to the glory of God and the salvation of man on October 5, 2014. We have between 8-10 people studying in the Adult Catechumenate for either Baptism or Confirmation. A young adult Bible study also started in January. Step by step, the Lord keeps leading us to hit the next new challenges or opportunities. We are acutely aware that our mighty God is the One Who is responsible any good that is happening. G2G! S2M!

Living Faith Korean Lutheran Church Mission, Cumming, GA

No Report

Living Hope Lutheran Church, Kennesaw, GA

God has continued to bless Living Hope and Open Arms over the past three years. We celebrated 20 years of His goodness and faithfulness to our ministry in 2013. We continue to explore new ways to share the unchanging Gospel with a quickly changing culture. We launched a School of Fine Arts which now serves over 70 students and is becoming a very nice outreach to our community. Open Arms continues to do a great job of providing excellent, Christian care and education to the students and families that attend. We have received the highest rating from the State of Georgia for Open Arms, which places us in the top 1% of all the centers within a 10-miles radius. We were blessed to welcome our new Worship Arts Leader, Ian Maphet, earlier this year. Our focus continues to be on equipping and strengthening families, so we place a significant emphasis on Children's, Youth and Family Ministry. We look forward to all God has in store for the next three years!

Rivercliff Lutheran Church, Sandy Springs, GA

Continues to serve God, His people at Rivercliff, and the community under the mission statement, "In response to God's love, Rivercliff Lutheran Church's mission is to joyfully proclaim God's grace and salvation through Jesus Christ to all people." Over the past three years, we have made great strides into serving our community through partnership with the Community Assistance Center. As part of the organization we distribute food, clothing, and financial support to needy individuals and families in the area. On the second Saturday of each month, we man the facility giving us a wonderful opportunity to develop relationships with our neighbors, pray with them, and share the good news of Jesus Christ. Over the past 21 years, our Open Arms Learning Center has provided day care and preschool to many families. It has been a privilege to be part of their lives. Unfortunately, due to declining enrollment and other factors, Rivercliff's Open Arms will close at the end of this school year. We thank God for His faithfulness to us and to the families we have served for so many years! Now it is time for us refocus our ministry in the Sandy Springs, Dunwoody, Roswell, and surrounding area. Pastor Scott Gress in helping us with a revisioning process led by a steering team of Rivercliff members. Please join us in praying that God will lead us to identify the needs of the communities around us and match those needs with the blessings He has bestowed on Rivercliff.

Savior of All Lutheran Church, Cartersville, GA

God continues to bless the saints at Savior Of All with a mission heart. Along with various ministries to the local community and region, SOA also continues to support two international missions, one in Haiti and one in Kyrgyzstan. Last year the ladies of the congregation made quilts for the children in an orphanage in Orlovka Kyrgyzstan and are currently making them for a retirement community in Serafimovka. We are currently in the process of developing a plan to expand our facility.

St John the Apostle Lutheran Church Mission, Buford, GA

No Report

St. Mark Lutheran Church, Tucker, GA

No Report

St. Peter Lutheran Church Mission, Dahlonega, GA

St. Peter Lutheran Church, Dahlonega, Georgia, is a mission endeavor started eight years ago by Living Faith Lutheran Church in Cumming. After being served by a number of different pastors and lay leaders, the Rev. Dr. Gerhard C. Michael, Jr. has been serving as their pastoral leader since December, 2013. Rented facilities provide space for worship, educational, and social activities. Membership currently stands at 29 with a weekly attendance of 21 in worship and 19 in Sunday School and Bible Class. Midweek Bible Classes enroll 20 people, both members and friends. The congregation is highly involved in the community's social ministries: the Community Helping Place (Pastor Michael serves on its board.); Side by Side (an annual day of service to assist people with various needs in their homes); Meals on Wheels; and North Georgia Interfaith Ministries, Inc. (a developing ministry to the homeless). In addition to the congregation's support of these local services, they send 10% of their offerings to the Florida-Georgia District. Efforts are being made to reach out to the 6000 students at the University of North Georgia's main campus in Dahlonega. Please send us the name of your students attending there.

Stepping Stone Lutheran Church Mission

No Report

Timothy Lutheran Church, Woodstock, GA

During the past three years we are thankful that our Lord has made His Kingdom come through His Gospel and Sacraments, accomplishing His eternal purposes (often unseen and unmeasurable) in the hearts and lives of those who have, by the Spirit's power, believed. We are also thankful for the blessings He has worked through our Food Bank, "Timothy's Cupboard," which nearly doubled its space in a renovation in 2014 (funded by the congregation and by a generous grant of \$40,000 from the Atlanta Community Food Bank), and which, in 2014, distributed 324,000 pounds of food to more than 10,000 individuals. Furthermore, we thank our Savior for allowing our pre-school to enjoy full enrollment the past three years—and for the faithful daily sharing of God's saving Word with many young children and their families. The school is currently going through the process of re-accreditation through the National Lutheran Schools Association.

Circuit 3 – Atlanta South – The Reverend Larry A. Townsend

Bethlehem Lutheran, Columbus, GA

We are preparing for Lent, our 52nd Anniversary, and a focus on ministry inside and outside the church. We are trying to include community building activities surrounding God's Word. Anything from fishing outings to ministry on Fort Benning. There are activities planned throughout the year at least once a month.

Church of the Redeemer Lutheran, Columbus, GA

Presently we at Redeemer are preparing ourselves for the celebration of our 75th Anniversary which is in September 2015. Redeemer continues to focus its outreach efforts towards the soldiers and families of Fort Benning. Likewise we plan on expanding our VBS to invite more families from the community. Another active outreach is to our community at large and to the students of nearby Columbus State University.

Prince of Peace Lutheran, Douglasville, GA

Worship attendance has grown at Prince of Peace Lutheran. New emphasis on mission activity with the support of a Christian Hospital in Chirala, Andhra, India; and evangelist outreach in the slums of Hyderabad among Hindus and Muslims by "Mission to the Multitudes." Early Childhood Learning Center is at capacity (52 children from 3-5 yrs. old) with a waiting list. New staff and volunteers engaged. Local outreach continues, especially through the pre-school families. As a result of damages due to burst pipes in the church building, a \$32,000 reclamation and renovation was completed in spring of 2014.

Peace Lutheran, Decatur, GA

Peace Lutheran Church is having a great season for ministry. We have a pending ministry with Wee Wisdom Nursery renting the downstairs of our facility to conduct classes and we have done quite a bit of work to refurbish the space thanks to a loan from LCEF. We have also made some improvement to the facilities. We look forward to a second service that will be held monthly on Saturday evenings in an attempt to reach young people in our community. We also plan to use the Gospel Seeds model for visitation to our community, and we are in preparations for the celebration of our 60th Anniversary celebration in October 2015.

Zion Lutheran, Newnan, GA

Inactive

Christ Our Savior Lutheran, Griffin, GA

Christ our Savior at present appears content with the status quo. We continue to have people visit us from Sun City Retirement Community and slowly gaining new members. Our interaction with the Christian Women's Center is ongoing. We are financially stable. We are looking into paving our parking lot, and seeing what county hurdles we must deal with. I have begun preparing the Board of Elders and Church Council for my eventual retirement from full time ministry in 2016, as I would like to create an atmosphere of peaceful and orderly transition.

St Paul Lutheran Church and School, Peachtree City, GA

St. Paul is going through a time of significant and necessary change, and several lingering matters related to the past two years have required attention. We have gone from three divergent congregational org charts to one, begun to move toward a policy-based governance model, and have appointed a new congregational president, acting school board chairman, and additional key lay leaders. We have reunified our congregational leadership and have publicly committed ourselves before the church to transparency and a “new way for a new day.” We have retired our broken school business model and instituted a new one based on more realistic principles. On the church side of the equation, we are working on several fronts as well, all ultimately focused on rebuilding unity, trust, and returning to a spirit of joy as a family of faith. And we have begun the Vision Path process. All things considered, St. Paul Lutheran Ministries is in a very good place. By God’s grace we have recently turned some significant corners as we’ve worked to get back on track and refocused.

Christ Lutheran, East Point, GA

Christ Lutheran continues with its primary work focused on children in their early development years. We celebrated 12 years with our pastor, Rev. Stephen A. Wiggins Sr. We have been very successful in developing creative partnerships in the community. Some of which include the Atlanta Theater Company, Theta Phi Sigma Christian Sorority, RCIP Food Services, and the International Women of Distinction. These partnerships assist and allow us to offer food distribution and theater opportunities to the underprivileged and underserved. One of the highlights of this past year included hosting a worship service and fellowship meal with over 40 men and women from homeless shelters in the Atlanta metropolitan community.

Holy Cross (Lao Ministry) Lutheran, Stockbridge, GA

Lao Ministry and Pastor Munnicha: Having two different ministries under the same roof provides unique challenges for the Lao ministry. While rejoicing that we have a place to worship there are difficulties in terms of outreach to the Lao community in the Atlanta area. Worship attendance is stable, and people from the Lao Community continue to check them out. On another note, Pastor Munnicha’s son, Jonathan, is doing extremely well at Concordia Bronxville in pursuit of serving the Lord. Respectfully submitted, Pastor Townsend (CV).

Lord of Life Lutheran, Stockbridge, GA

The hurdles confronting Lord of Life Lutheran Church pretty much remain the same. It is a congregation composed of transplanted, aging, Caucasian, conservative Lutherans located in a growingly diverse ethnic community. Our financial situation is stable and our facilities are upgraded and refurbished. Our staff remains the same. Outreach programs: We began a tutoring-mentoring program two years ago. It has grown to 32 students this year with 10 volunteers from the congregation. We have a number of our members participating in a community feeding program, especially for the homeless which includes a worship service once a month. Our goal is to adapt and enlarge our vision and strategies so the Lord would keep this gospel outpost alive and functioning well into the future.

Incarinate Word Lutheran, Stone Mountain, GA

Incarinate Word is now meeting in Stone Mountain, Georgia since November 1 2014. The new location is at a Church building owned by the Moravian Church; while we believe that we are blessed with being in a new location, our current major disadvantage is our early meeting time. We have three areas of concern for which we ask prayers as follows: 1) we need a plan to do outreach in the neighborhood. 2) We need a plan to encourage stewardship and 3) we need to have a long term vision for Incarnate Word and a plan to attract and train younger men for pastoral ministry.

Circuit 4 – East Central Georgia – The Reverend Roger A. Schwartz

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church, Eatonton, GA

The last three years have seen many changes at Lake Oconee Lutheran Church. First The Rev. Ron Schornhorst - Lake Oconee Lutheran's first called pastor retired. Then the Rev James Stoltenberg was called to be Interim pastor and led the congregation through a year of Interim ministry and transition. Then the Rev Andrew L. Schroeder was called to be Lake Oconee Lutheran's second pastor. He was installed on 21 September, 2014 and is now leading the congregation as it goes forward as Christ's body.

Christ Lutheran Church, Perry, GA

Christ Lutheran was chartered as a congregation in 2007, with the idea that it would be a Christ-centered, service and outreach-minded congregation. Since our last convention, the congregation completed the construction of its first permanent church home on 9 beautiful acres, with the help of Laborers for Christ. For the 7th year in a row, we have hosted a free weekly luncheon and devotion for the entire community, with attendance averaging 75. One of our more exciting endeavors in the past two years, is the long-term planning of what we hope, by God's grace, is the first Lutheran Senior Living Community in Georgia, incorporated under the name Lutheran Village. We are a congregation of forgiven sinners, gathered by God's grace and mercy.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Augusta, GA

2012 was the year of celebration for God's incredible blessings to Our Redeemer over the past 75 years. It culminated in having Dr. Paul Maier, Vice-President of Synod with us as well as our own Rev. Greg Walton, the Florida-Georgia District President. Since that time, we are finding ways to connect to our community. We have tried to assist Chaplains at Fort Gordon in starting a Lutheran Service on post. We are actively partnering with other organizations to assist the hungry, the needy and the homeless. We also are striving with programs such as Trunk or Treat and VBS to reach out to our immediate community. The summer of 2015 will allow Pastor Roger Schwartz some time for reflection and study as he participates in a 3 month sabbatical.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Savannah, GA

Trinity continues to strive to connect with its local community. Plans in 2015 include having a Comfort Dog ministry and starting a contemporary worship service. They also want to reach out to young families and students at Armstrong State University.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Statesboro, GA

St. Paul is working on being more accessible via social media. With Georgia Southern University nearby, there is potential for more student ministry.

Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Macon, GA

The last three years have seen quite a bit of change. The Trinity Woods Camp continues to be a local favorite and brings many people and youth to the campus. The Church has seen Rev. Karl Schultz and Rev. Rod Houppert both conclude vacancy and intentional interim pastorates. Currently, the congregation is searching for a part-time vacancy pastor. They have also celebrated their 60th year of ministry during the past three years.

Hope Lutheran Church, Milledgeville, GA

Currently being served twice monthly by Rev. Dr. David Bernthal, the Church continues to seek out ways to connect to its community.

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Warner-Robins, GA

The past three years have brought some changes to our ministry. Director of Christian Outreach, Jerry Bisping has retired. A futures committee is in the process of directing a path forward in ministry. The congregation continues to be a light for its community. They provide a Christmas Day dinner for the community and many other ministries that affect people directly.

Circuit 5 – Tallahassee – The Reverend Mark Schulz

Our Redeemer Lutheran, Lake City, FL

This congregation is being served by Rev. Bruce Alkire. Congregational members have been enjoying personal growth, and the Word of God continues to bear fruit in the members of the congregation and beyond.

Trinity Lutheran, Wakulla, FL

Trinity, which for many years had been on mission subsidy, is now off of subsidy and growing. In the past three years, they have gone from low to mid 30s in worship, when Rev. Burt Matlack arrived, to now over 50. This is great news for a congregation located in an area that knows nearly nothing about Lutheranism.

University Lutheran, Tallahassee, FL

University Lutheran, under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Jay Winters (who is also the Secretary of the Fl/Ga District), is a town/gown congregation. While ministering to the 'seasoned' members of the congregation, the congregation endeavors to make their priority ministry, the students on the area campuses. There is much fruit being born from this ministry, including, one student who is now at the St. Louis Seminary.

Epiphany Lutheran, Tallahassee, FL

Epiphany Lutheran has seen a significant growth in its commitment to prayer and specifically praying for the people in our community. This done in a variety of ways throughout the year. Each Sunday, a sign is placed at the road announcing which neighborhood street is being prayed for that Sunday. Worship is vibrant and people are growing in Christ. Epiphany is served by Rev. Mark Schulz (who also serves as Circuit Visitor).

Trinity Lutheran, Albany, GA

Having been served until this past Easter by Rev. Mark Rabe (having accepted a Call from the Mission Board of Synod to serve in mission in Ethiopia at the seminary there), the congregation is now vacant. As of this writing a Call Committee has been formed and work has begun in their search for their next Shepherd.

Peace Lutheran, Tifton, GA

Peace Lutheran has been vacant since August of 2014 when their long serving Pastor, Rev. Earl Steffens, retired. A Call Committee has been formed and work is under way to seek God's direction.

Messiah Lutheran, Valdosta, GA

This congregation has been growing and recently introduced a Contemporary form of worship in addition to their long standing Traditional service. However, Messiah will become vacant at the end of May, 2015, as Rev. Joshua Brown has accepted a call to a congregation in Reno, NV. As of this writing the formation of a Call Committee is underway.

Circuit 6 – First Coast – The Reverend Dana A. Brones

Eleven congregations form First Coast Circuit 6. Nine are in Florida and two are in Georgia. Additionally, our circuit includes one chaplain, called by the National Board of Mission, to serve in the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Waycross, GA.

Bethlehem, Jacksonville Beach, FL

Bethlehem is a thriving, mission minded faith community. Bethlehem supports two missionaries through LCMS World Mission, provides direct support for widows and orphans at Nsonweni Lutheran church in South Africa, and supports one called travelling missionary/evangelist who travels throughout the U.S. and Canada. For the sixth time, Bethlehem is returning to Guatemala, sending thirteen missionaries from Bethlehem in April, 2015. Local missions are also a priority as we provide Christian care and education in our preschool (currently with 55 students) and as members serve our local homeless shelter, food bank and refugee services. In 2014 BLC initiated Life Tree Café in a local deli (LC provides an opportunity for BLC member to discuss their faith with non-believers in a casual environment). Bethlehem continues to participate in the Synod's vicarage program and supports two additional seminarians. In June of 2012 Bethlehem built a beautiful Columbarium and Memorial Wall on the south end of the property. Bethlehem is served by Senior Pastor, Rev. Dana Allen Brones and the Rev. Dr. James Balke as part-time

Assistant Pastor. Empowered by Word and Sacrament, Bethlehem continues to move forward in Witness, Mercy and Life Together.

Christ Our Savior, St. Augustine, FL

Christ Our Savior, St. Augustine, FL, during the past triennium has seen very little change in membership numbers, but, by God's grace, remains strong in its faith and commitment to its mission. The congregation continues to reach out into the St. Augustine community by allowing use of its facility to various community programs, including an AA group, ESL classes, the Tri-county Deaf Association, the neighborhood association, and a support group for families with incarcerated members. The congregation continues to be an active participant in the community's "Meals on Wheels" program. An orphanage and school in Kyrgyzstan, Mission - Haiti, and the Rev. Mark Eisold and family in Peru have been a focus of material, financial, and prayer support of the congregation, particularly the men's and women's organizations. We thank God for all His blessings and pray His grace to be good stewards of all the gifts and talents He has given to the members of this congregation for His honor and glory.

Grace Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, FL

Grace Lutheran Church and School has been very busy during this triennium. The Congregation has added the following to its staff: The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Skopak as its new pastor, Mr. Steve Durheim as its new Director of Christian Education, and has welcomed back Mr. Rodney Jackson to its position of School Principal. The school has also added Miss Kelsey Dunn and Miss Laura Hillman to its teaching staff. The Grace Community is now working on a "simple" focus of mission and ministry that will guide the congregation moving into the future. This process includes: Town Hall Meetings, the creation of a simplified mission/vision, and addressing its governance and its organizational structure. The school continues to be a blessing to the community and currently has 235 students in enrollment. The Grace community hosted the Central Florida Lutheran Boys Basketball tournament - and for the first time came in first place! Grace continues to partner with Stephen ministry and strives to serve the emotional and spiritual needs of the community. The pastor emeritus, Rev. Rick Engel, has led mission trips to Ethiopia and is planning another trip in the Fall of 2015 as well as a trip in the Spring of 2016. Grace has "adopted" an orphanage in Ethiopia as means to demonstrate God's love and care for those most in need. Grace Lutheran Church and School continues to experience the wonderful blessings of God's love and harmony among the member families and is seeking new and exciting ways to nurture, inspire, and share the gifts of God with the East Arlington neighborhood of Jacksonville and beyond! The Grace community is energized for what the next three years of ministry may bring.

Holy Cross, Jacksonville, FL

Holy Cross is currently without a full time Pastor. However, Holy Cross is being served by two retired Pastor's: Reverend Ervin Oerman and Reverend Jerome Figuly. Lutheran Braille ministry and a strong youth ministry, both facilitated by capable lay leadership, serve as an excellent outreach of Holy Cross.

Holy Trinity, Kingsland, GA

Holy Trinity called the Rev. Dr. Joel Meyer in 2012. By the grace and mercy of the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Holy Trinity has entered its thirty-second year of ministry to the Kingsland and Saint Mary's region. Holy Trinity continues to be a place where God gathers a people for himself through the

proclamation of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments. Our membership includes military families from the Kings Bay Naval Base community, retirees who have moved into the area, as well as an increasing group of local residents who are new to the Lutheran tradition. Our life together centers around weekly worship and biweekly Bible studies, and branches out to include a middle school/high school youth group, a choir, an OWLS group, and the Lutheran Food Bank of Camden County. Over the past year, we have added two major social gatherings centered on our life together in Christ—a Pentecost Pig Picnic and an All Saints Day Festival.

Hope Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, FL

Due to the grace of God and the generosity of District President Gregory Walton and the District Board of Directors, Hope ceased to be an unchartered congregation. On January 25, 2015, Hope had the joy and privilege of becoming a chartered congregation within the Florida-Georgia District and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod! Hope Lutheran Church, is privileged to serve our Lord Jesus Christ and the south side community of Jacksonville! Through Word and Sacrament ministry, the people of Hope are equipped and empowered to reach out specifically to the residents within the Baymeadows community! Hope's God-given mission is to empower people to experience lasting hope through an ever-growing connection with Jesus, the Christ. In addition to Worship Services and Adult Bible Classes, Hope seeks to fulfill this vital mission through three specific ministries: 1. Family Promise; 2. Lifetree Café; and 3. Garden of Hope. Family Promise is a ministry to families who are experiencing homeless, unemployment, and hunger. Through God-centered counseling and job skill development, these families are able to become more self-sufficient and more productive citizens in society. Lifetree Café is a conversation café where people gather in a safe environment to discuss important topics within our society. Lifetree always brings in God's perspective through the teachings of the Bible and prayer. It also creates a "God space" where Christians are able to share their faith with the de-churched. Garden of Hope is a Christian-based tutoring and mentoring ministry that focuses on the mental, physical, and spiritual growth of a child. Through this ministry, Hope is able to minister to children ages 4-12. Hope is truly grateful for all the wonderful blessings our Savior has bestowed upon it! It is our congregation's prayer that it will always be a blessing to our awesome God and the people within its communities!

Good Shepherd, Starke, FL

Good Shepherd purchased property in 2011 and has built and dedicated to God's glory three prefabricated buildings: a worship center, an educational center and a fellowship hall. Since Pastor John Buchheimer was called to glory in 2014, Good Shepherd continues to be served by interim pastors and hopes to call a full time pastor in the future.

Messiah, Brunswick, GA

Messiah is a mission church of Holy Trinity, Kingsland, GA, that offers God's means of Grace to those Luther Church-Missouri Synod people that do not have this opportunity without travelling 45 minutes to an hour either direction on I-95 and to those in the community who are searching for the truth that is only found in Gospel. Currently Messiah Lutheran Church has a communicant membership of 15-20 people, with the average of 17-20 attending Sunday worship. There have been a number of Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) students that have attended Messiah that would not have had an opportunity if this LCMS Church were not present in Brunswick. Additionally, we have had several

“snowbirds” including one family on Christmas Eve that have attended worship here at Messiah. In addition to the Sunday worship and Sunday School (adult bible study and junior high/high school study), Messiah has mid-week bible study in the home of a member each Thursday. During Advent and Lent this is replaced with a mid-week Vespers service.

Our Redeemer, Jacksonville, FL

The members and friends of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, Florida are celebrating the 55th Anniversary of the congregation during 2015. A service of celebration will be scheduled for the Fall. Pastor Bill Reister has served the church since 1991. The congregation has been blessed with growth of its membership which includes new families from the Greater Jacksonville and Nassau County areas as well as others from as far away as Lake City, FL and communities in Southeast Georgia. Church members have been actively involved in the District Outreach Initiative and welcome the community through many of its ministries including a Scouting program, a new community garden, and a revitalized Sunday school.

St. Paul, Jacksonville, FL

St. Paul continues as the only predominately African American LCMS congregation in metropolitan Jacksonville, FL, under the servant leadership of Rev. James Wiggins, Jr. Evangelism and community outreach continue to be the primary aim of the congregation. A very successful LCEF “Consecrated Stewards,” program (Fall 2014) has increased our tithes and offerings by 32% over the previous year. The leaders and members of St. Paul are positioned to press forward as instruments of grace to fully ignite the vision to make disciples of all nations. In 2016 the congregation will celebrate its 60th anniversary of word and sacrament mission and ministry.

St. Peter’s, Middleburg, FL

St. Peter’s continues to pursue her mission, “Gathering Friends, Growing Disciples.” With a renewed emphasis on contending for the faith handed down to us, Pastor Ross Engel is working through the Book of Concord in a twice a week devotional email that goes out to the congregation and has increased the number of Bible studies offered. The congregation continues to experience the ebb and flow of ministry in a military community and our vibrant worship life and focus on education is a draw for people of all ages. The youth group has determined to better care for the homeless in our community by creating and distributing “Blessing Bags,” which include a variety of medical necessities, food stuffs, a Bible and other assorted items. As the congregation continues to grow in the faith that has been handed down to us, we pray that we would continue gathering new friends to be a part of our family as we boldly confess Christ crucified, until He comes again.

Federal Bureau of Prisons, Waycross, GA

Chaplain Scott Kirchoff is Called through the National Board For Missions to serve as a called and ordained chaplain in the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Waycross, GA.

Worship Services: Scott currently preaches twice a month for the general Protestant Services. Three worship services are held every Sunday. Federal Prison Camp (20-30 Attendance). Federal Satellite Low (60-80 Attendance). Federal Correctional Institution (80-100 Attendance). Inmate population is racial mixed. 65% African-American. 20% Hispanic. 15% Caucasian. All male. Chaplain Kirchoff does not serve Holy Communion. He is currently taking three years to teach a complete overview of every book in the Bible. He began this on January 1, 2015 and has finished six out of the twelve Minor Prophets.

Scripture Studies: Pastor Kirchoff teaches a Torah (Old Testament) Study every Friday Night from 6:30-8:00 PM in the FCI and is currently working through the Book of Judges. This is an in-depth study. Attendance ranges from 12-20 every week. Scott also serve as a Subject Matter Expert regarding the Messianic Community. Half those attending his Friday Night Torah Study are Messianic.

Church Assistance: Scott is currently helping Pastor Jeff Webb at Celebration Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, FL. He has taught three Adult Sunday School Classes (35-50 Attendance), served as Liturgist during Advent, and preached five sermons (series on the Apostle Paul) during Lent. He will also be leading a Maundy Thursday "Seder" Service during Holy Week. Pastor Webb is also considering allowing him to teach a Wednesday Night Study which would be centered around an overview of every book in the Bible. It would be a three year study.

Personal Study: Pastor Kirchoff has just completed a 24 week study on the Apostle Paul.

Circuit 7 – North Central Florida – The Reverend James H. Rockey

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, Gainesville, FL, Pastor Alan Struckmeyer

Abiding Savior pursues its mission, "Connecting Jesus to people's hearts," throughout west Gainesville and the communities of Newberry, Archer, Alachua, High Springs, and Williston. The congregation conducts a large preschool ministry which touches the hearts of more than 150 children and their families with the Good News about Jesus. It highly values touching people's hearts through the gift of music as a hand chime choir was started in the fall of 2014 and a third annual madrigal dinner was hosted in Advent. Abiding Savior has compassion for those in need of basic necessities as, for the second consecutive year, Abiding Savior coordinated, packaged, & purchased 100,000 meals for a local food bank with the help of more than 200 church and community volunteers. God's generously provides for his people as two new sets of playground equipment were installed for the preschool and the interior of the worship building was refurbished during the past year. To God be the glory & the praise!

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Oxford/The Villages, FL, Pastor James Rockey

This seven year old mission congregation moved into their own new 8200 sf. facility on September 1, 2014 after 8 months of construction. Dedication was on November 11, with more than 250 in attendance. Membership has grown to 188 with weekly worship now averaging around 140. New ministries are beginning and a Task Force is now studying the feasibility of beginning an Early Childhood Learning Center with 2,000 new homes for families being built within one mile of the Ministry Center. An additional 1200 sf. of space was finished on the 2nd floor this winter that will allow expansion of their education, youth and other ministries. Amazing Grace continues to be committed to "transforming lives through Christ for today & eternity", locally and globally. This mission is evident

through their hands on work out in the community, the schools, the impoverished town of Wildwood, mission trips to Panama, India and St. Louis, while also developing a vibrant Women's Ministry, Small Group Bible Studies and more.

Faith Lutheran Church, Lecanto, FL, Pastor Steve Lane

Faith Lutheran continues to serve the people of Citrus County proclaiming the life-changing message of Christ to all. Faith just celebrated their 25th year with a wonderful Service of Thanksgiving that included Pres. Walton preaching. Their mission is "A Heart from God. A Heart for Others," and under the leadership of Pastor Lane, Faith has developed a strategy for further mission into their community and give thanks for the Lord's continued blessing.

First Lutheran Church, Gainesville, FL, Pastor John Glover

First Lutheran's new Sr. Pastor was installed in September 2014 and the congregation is moving forward with renewed passion and vision. They have just successfully completed phase one of their Stewardship Campaign, entitled "Replace-Renew-Rejoice." Over \$350,000 has been pledged to replace and renew church properties. Such as: new seating, new church doors, new parking lot, new electrical work, sound systems for fellowship hall, landscaping and remodeling of grounds, and much more. First continues to serve over 125 children in their Early Childhood Center by not only providing quality care and instruction, but by sharing Christ in word and deed. Like many congregations, First has seen a lot of change in the area around the church, but they are also giving thanks to God for new opportunities to reach their surrounding community, while providing welcoming facilities.

First Lutheran Church, Inverness, FL, Pastor Tom Beaverson

First Lutheran has been...*Worshiping God, loving one another and sharing the love of Christ* since 1966. Over the past five years, First has nearly doubled in size, renovated and reopened their education building and given greater emphasis to sharing that love of Christ with those outside their doors. First has developed extensive ministries and programs that respond to the needs of their community while building relationships and bridges to Christ. Their newest ministry is a relationship with Kid Central, hosting the *Grandparents with Grandchildren Education Night*. This is like a mini-VBS every Wednesday night with 45-50 children.

Forest Lutheran Church, Silver Springs, FL, Vacant

Over the past several years, Forest, under the shepherding of Pastor Ron Scheer, has worked to make Forest a place where anyone can find comfort and hope in knowing the love of Jesus. In continuing to build bridges to their community, the congregation does outreach projects to reach those around them, and their congregation is known as the "community minded" church in the Forest. Some of their recent efforts to reach their neighbors include: Octoberfest with 200 attending, 43 ladies at our Advent By Candlelight event for women, and 64 people present at their community Christmas Carol Sing with the majority of those attending non-members. Forest also sees a regular flow of visitors. Pastor Scheer retired at the beginning of 2015, and as a small congregation they are in the process of prayerfully studying how the Lord is calling them forward into the future.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chiefland, FL, Pastor Lou Abel

In April of this year, Good Shepherd celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a special service and founding pastor, Bob Besalski, as the guest preacher followed by dinner. Each month throughout the year they are recognizing all different aspects of their ministries, and how the Lord has both blessed their ministry in the past, and how He is continuing to enable them to be a blessing in the years to come. One such example is the reactivation of a Sunday School for children which began in January. Our adult Bible class on Sunday mornings and Wednesdays also have 40% of our congregation in attendance. We are excited about the challenges that lie ahead for us as our little community begins a growth spurt.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ocala, FL, Pastors Joe Adams, Josh Pettit

In response to growth over the past several years and a commitment to reaching out to serve the growing west Ocala community, Our Redeemer added an associate pastor's position. By God's grace, Rev. Joshua Pettit was installed in June of 2014. Pastor Pettit is working with youth and young families as well as overseeing our Christian Education. We have added *The Treehouse* which is a staffed nursery program for younger children 3 and under taking place during our 11:00am worship. Our 4yr old thru junior high students attend our *Faith Explorers Program* which runs during our Bible Class hour. Pastor Pettit has established a "Youth Room" for our teens to meet on Saturdays. Highly attended is our newest Bible study *The Story* which is widely recognized and well attended at Our Redeemer during Bible class hour. We are currently expanding our outreach ministries in Ocala, working with Habitat for Humanity and Interfaith of Marion County. Attendance is 200 plus on Sundays and Our Redeemer continues to seek ways to engage its people in...*Sharing God's love by knowing, loving and serving Jesus!*

Peace Lutheran Church, Dunnellon, FL, Pastor Terry McKee

Peace Lutheran Church continues to be involved in the community by being active at local events like the 1st Saturday each month. Individuals as well as businesses and churches put up booths in the downtown historic district. Some sell goods and food, while others give out goodies and such. Peace hands out free New Testaments in English and Spanish as well as seasonal items and information about Peace. Peace also seeks to build bridges to their community through the use of their facilities for activities such as a community Yoga class, Palates class (twice a week), Weight Watchers and Al-Anon. Our Pastor sits on the Board of Directors for the Dunnellon Chamber of Commerce. We have a group who volunteers at the annual Christmas Parade and festivities. Annually, we collect Toys for Tots. We also are involved in the Food 4 Kids program in our local Elementary school as well collecting school supplies. Once a month, we visit an Assisted Living/Nursing Facility to visit residents and have a worship service. The change in culture from looking inward to looking outward into our community has brought many blessings and opportunities. We were blessed with 1 youth and 4 adult confirmations in 2014. We also have several community dinners throughout the year.

St John Lutheran Church & School, Ocala, FL, Pastor Ron Mueller – Vacancy Pastor

In December, St. John's Pastor resigned. Pastor Mueller began to serve as the Vacancy Pastor in January. St. John has had a revitalization in the areas of youth and children over the past several years. In 2014, St. John's School (Pre-k – 12) celebrated their 50th anniversary. The school, particularly the High School has had a decline in enrollment during the economic downturn (approx. 315 with a need of 370), but continues to be a vibrant and highly recognized mission vessel of this congregation. St. John is blessed with a deep love of the Lord, desire to see God's Kingdom grow, strong leadership, and a renewed sense

of vision and purpose. Their prayer is that St. John will have an even greater impact on the Kingdom and the community.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Summerfield, FL, Pastors Dan Kelm & Mark Abram

In the fall of 2014, Pastor Abram transitioned from full-time ministry at Trinity to part-time. Pastor Kelm was then installed as the Senior Pastor. Trinity has continued to faithfully and effectively serve their community and with that saw attendance increase by 5.6% in 2014, with a high of 962 per month in February and a low of 555 in July. In addition, Trinity has added each year a number of souls through adult confirmation and Baptism. Sunday Bible class averages about 80. Strong lay leadership continues to be a great blessing as they look forward to their future.

Circuit 8 – Space Coast – The Reverend Gary T. Held

Grace Lutheran Church, Merritt Island, Florida

At Grace the vacancy which resulted from the departure of Rev. Jason Boetcher is being filled by Rev. Mark Duchene.

Faith Lutheran Church, Merritt Island, Florida

Faith celebrated their 50th anniversary in October of 2014.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Melbourne, Florida

Redeemer has been operating a "coffee shop" outreach ministry called Life Tree Cafe. The ministry encourages Christian discussions in a relaxed atmosphere, and was began in February of 2014.

Circuit 9 – Orlando East – The Reverend Kenneth Green III

Ascension Lutheran Church, Casselberry, FL

The past three years have marked a time of transition and growth at Ascension. Pastor Dick Knapp provided a well-rounded interim ministry that led to the call of Pastor Tom Eggebrecht to be Senior Pastor. Pastor Raleigh Sims completed his SMP studies, was ordained, and is Assisting Pastor at Ascension. The congregation hired a new Business Manager, a Director of Media Relations and Communications, and called Vicky Piller as Preschool Director. All congregational activities have been restructured into teams called JCC (Joy/Community/Christ) Teams. The Manna Project food distribution (serving 80-100 families each month) added a sit-down, hot meal component each month. The preschool is showing signs of growth with new registrations. A congregational two-year walk through the Bible has just been completed. In the midst of all of this, the congregation is discovering new ways of funding ministry and vision. A forward-looking Mission and Ministry Council is excited about future possibilities and growth under the guiding hand of God.

Lutheran Church of Providence, Deltona, FL

Lutheran Church of Providence is turning the corner and becoming healthier, but still has a way to go. Being served by a vacancy Pastor, they are going forward and reclaiming some of their past programs as

they add new programs to serve the community. God has been blessing them and they pray for the wisdom to do His will in the community they are in.

Hope Lutheran Church, Orlando, FL

Hope continues to focus on being a discipleship-oriented congregation, with leaders being trained in huddles and overseeing small group ministries built around the premise of Bible-storying. These groups operate throughout the week, including Sundays after worship. The Preschool continues to bless the community as well with its service to the Lord for those families who have found themselves connected to Hope in this capacity.

Journey of Life Lutheran Church, Orlando, FL

Journey of Life continues its ministry in the Lake Nona area with our exciting big step from renting a cafeteria on Sunday mornings to renting a storefront as a 24/7 ministry location. As part of that move, we intend to move from one blended service to one fully liturgical service and one creatively contemporary service. We continue to host community movie nights once per month. We continue to support several missionaries. In addition, we take a monthly food collection to support the food bank at another LCMS congregation, and we collect thrift store items to support a local children's home.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Orlando, FL

Prince of Peace has been richly blessed by our Lord even though the congregation has experienced significant transition in the past three years, beginning just prior to the 2012 District Convention with the sudden and unexpected death of its Senior Pastor, Phillip Vance. With emotional and spiritual support from the Florida-Georgia District and Lutheran Counseling Services, the congregation continued to focus on its mission to the community and the care of God's people at Prince of Peace. Associate Pastor, Adolfo Borges, as well as the entire staff, provided extraordinary, Christ-centered ministry in the midst of challenging circumstances. The congregation was blessed to be served by Rev. Alston Kirk as Intentional Interim Senior Pastor. In August 2012, Julianne Wiegand came on board as director of Prince of Peace's Preschool and Child Development Center, a vital outreach to our neighborhood. The congregation extended a Call to Ligia Morales as Deaconess. Austin Wessel joined the staff as Director of Worship and Technology. Pastor Ken Green was installed as Senior Pastor in November 2013. Emily Moss (nee Hente) has continued to serve the congregation as D.C.E. and celebrated her fifth anniversary at Prince of Peace in January 2015. As Pastor Emeritus, David Ludwig continues to support the ministry through teaching, preaching, and visitation. Pastor Adolfo Borges continue to provide key leadership at all levels, especially in leading a vibrant Hispanic Ministry at Prince of Peace/*Príncipe de Paz*.

Prince of Peace remains committed to God's call to ministries of mercy in our community, evidenced by our one-Saturday-a-month Food Pantry: in 2014 we distributed nearly 170,000 lbs. of food to 3,760 families representing 13,645 individuals. We connect with our community through our partnership with Three Points Elementary School; our presence on Orange County Public School's "Faith Based Initiatives" committee; and annual events that are strategic in connecting with families in our diverse neighborhood, including Trunk-or-Treat, Vacation Bible School, and a family Easter event.

In 2014, Prince of Peace conducted a capital campaign under the designation "The Restoration Project." The focus of the project was to perform much needed capital improvements, including restoration of our 40-year-old Möller pipe organ and reducing our carbon footprint through replacing old, inefficient air conditioning units. The campaign generated pledges of \$300,000 and cash in hand of \$125,000.

The leadership of Prince of Peace is continuing a process that will, through prayer and discernment, bring even greater clarity to our strategic direction and establish critical targets that guide our ministry efforts. Our motto is that “We are the heart, hands, and feet of Jesus—in the heart of Orlando.”

Trinity Lutheran Church, Orlando, FL

For the past many months, the 5+ acres of Trinity’s property has resembled a battleground. There is hardly any space that has not been invaded by the construction crews which have owned the place for the past many months! There has been a demolition of non-historic buildings, as well as construction of new which in design match the old. In June 2015, the 28,000 sq. ft. Child Development Center will open for business. In that facility, care for children from infant to pre-kindergarten age will be provided. We are expecting enrollment to brush up against 100%, which will take the population in that building to 300+ children, plus some 75 employees. Interestingly the new construction has been closely watched over by the Lake Eola Height’s Neighborhood Association along with the city government to make sure the new construction will fit in with the 1920’s historic character of the neighborhood. It is amazing how the building blends in and everyone is pleased. A formal dedication of the construction is planned for August 2015.

Recently, Trinity has established 78 new Ministry Teams, involving over 80 members of the congregation. This is the culmination of a process started some years ago when the Transforming Churches Network came to the church with suggestions for streamlining Trinity’s ministries. This process is done and we are looking toward increased participation and energy among the members of Trinity.

Our K-8 Trinity School is rebuilding under the excellent leadership of Dr. Kevin Brockberg. Kevin is a veteran teacher and administrator who formally served in administrative and teaching roles in Lutheran Schools. He and his wife, Susan, recently returned from a teaching assignment at an elementary school in China. With his leadership joined to an excellent staff, our school is rebuilding and regaining a foothold in the Orlando area as one of the finest “private” schools.

Trinity has been in an Interim situation since December of 2014. Since January 2015, Thomas R. Zehnder has served as Intentional Interim Senior Pastor, joining forces with Trinity’s Urban Missionary, Rev. Billy Brath, and the rest of the Trinity Staff. Optimism and energy fill the air!

In the national news it has been reported that the number one desired zip code in the USA for those desiring to move into an urban setting is 32801. That is the Trinity Zip Code. We are endeavoring to put our best foot forward to meet these people and share the Good News of Jesus with them. Our “motto” is “Bringing People One Step Closer to Jesus.” God help us as we attempt to step up to this opportunity!

A Call Committee for Senior Pastor has been established, and it will soon be put into motion. Please remember Trinity and her ministries in your prayers, as we promise to do for all of you.

Grace Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, FL

Rev. James Bollhagen retired as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church on June 1, 2014. Pastors Harold Storm and Paul Foelber are serving as interim pastors. Attendance has been holding steady as the membership continues to grow. Evangelism efforts are continuing. The congregation is very community-minded: currently our facility serves the need of a Boy Scout troop, a Girl Scout troop, an AA chapter, and three Weightwatchers groups. Bible classes and Confirmation classes continue as usual. In the area of social ministry, the congregation supplies a great amount of food for the local food bank and it staffs the same food bank one full day each month. The congregation is in the process of calling a pastor.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Sanford, FL

God continues to bless his people at Redeemer and to bless the community through them. In January of 2014, Deaconess, Alyssa St. Georges, was installed to serve in the areas of Family Life and Outreach Ministries. She is working to rebuild the Sunday School and Youth programs while looking for creative and innovative ways to reach out to the community with the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

During the past three years, the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer worked to make the dream of opening a maternity home a reality. In partnership with Lutheran Church Extension Fund, and with the help of members from various sister congregations, we purchased and completely remodeled a duplex located directly across the street from Redeemer. Since the home opened in November of 2013, we have had 14 residents, while referring 36 others to various agencies or reconnecting them to their families for support. That is fifty women who have been touch by this Christ-centered ministry. As of the Easter Vigil, we will have baptized three of the five babies born to our residents.

Our partnership with St. Luke's, Oviedo continues to mature. This partnership, established at a time when the survival of Redeemer was questionable, allows the churches to share together the unique ministry opportunities each congregation provides to its members and the surrounding communities.

The Garden at Redeemer is a unique approach to a community garden. Measuring 75 ft. by 100 ft. The Garden is designed like the family gardens of the past. The purpose is to build relationships with our neighbors while feeding the hungry in our community. The vast majority of the harvest is distributed to those in need through ministries that operate food banks and feeding locations.

Circuit 10 – Orlando West – The Reverend Dr. Milan G. Weerts

Bethany Lutheran Church, Leesburg, FL

Bethany Lutheran Church is a unique church located in the downtown area of Leesburg. Our congregation is comprised of retired people, but with a heart of love for the church and the surrounding area in which we are located. We have many "snowbirds" from the North that visit us and we endeavor to meet their spiritual needs while they are visiting our area. In addition to this, we have begun an "after school program" called Rebecca's Garden of Hope to meet the educational as well as spiritual needs of the children in this area and beyond. It is our hope to expand this program to meet the needs of children who need assistance with their classwork from their respective schools. We are situated in a very growing area with the encroachment of "The Villages" that have purchased land near our church and are in the process of building many new homes. It is our desire and prayer that we may reach some of the people who will buying these homes. The Villages has now reached the population of 100,000 and with this new property located on 466A, "our fields are white unto the harvest, but the laborers are few."

Christ The King Lutheran Church, Orlando, FL

2012–2015 “Special Years of God’s Blessing”

Leadership: Strong leadership on Board of Elders, Church Council and Committees.

Outreach: Continue to plan and execute activities to “connect people to Jesus” (Follow up on Visitors and Membership classes.)

Education: Effective and growing Bible Class Programs and Sunday school.

Pre–School: Great staff, curriculum and school continue to be filled to capacity.

Worship: Small increase in numbers of worshippers each year.

Fellowship: Many encouraging activities each year that lead to a spirit of togetherness.

Youth: Strengthened Youth Programs (Jr. High & High School).

Financial: The Lord continues to bless our members with a spirit of generosity for His work at and beyond Christ the King.

Grounds & Buildings: Beautiful landscaping and buildings.

Overall Blessings: The special harmony and spirit of togetherness on the work and life of the Church

Faith Lutheran Church & School, Eustis, FL

Faith has truly been blessed this year! Our school enrollment for 14-15 increased by 10% from the previous year and the 15-16 registrations are coming in at a pace that looks like we will have another 10% increase. Our boys varsity basketball team was invited to the Lutheran Basketball National Tournament in Valparaiso, Indiana for the first time in the school’s history. Sadly, we are saying goodbye to our much loved principal, Corinne Hoffert, as she is retiring after 40 years in the ministry. We are, however, looking forward with great anticipation to see where God’s plan will lead our school under the leadership of a new principal. The church remains as strong as ever. Financially, last year was strong, and we were able to end the year in a much better position than we started. We welcomed a new DCE, Mike Yurk, who is busy reenergizing several areas that needed shoring up. Our spiritual outreach has been greatly expanded with the help of the LHM’s GodConnects Program. Wonderful things are happening at Faith through God’s love.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Orlando, FL

Our Savior's ministry is growing in leaps and bounds under the theme of “Lifting Him Up...” “And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me”. (John12:32) Our Mentorship ministry has over 60 youth throughout Orlando's communities. Our “Reaching Beyond the Break” Ministry consists of the Boys Luther Cadets and Christian Karate. Under Social Ministry we have the Orlando Lutheran Employment Service, the Helping Hands Food Pantry, No Room in the Inn Homeless Ministry. Other ministries are our Senior Bible Study, Women's Bible Study, Men's Bible Study, Martha's Circle, Discipleship and Evangelism Ministry, Senior and Youth Choir and Praise Dance Ministry. To God be the Glory.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Apopka, FL

These last three years have been quite a struggle at St. Paul. During this past year, things have begun to recover. Attendance at worship is on the rise, if slowly. God’s work among us is evident, and we can only hope that such improvements will continue by his mighty blessings. In addition, a great deal of support in all kinds of ways has come to our aid from the church at large. Those blessings have help us renew our strength and confidence in the generosity and faithfulness of the people of God in every place. God is good; our very existence is proof of that.

Woodlands Lutheran Church & Early Learning Center, Montverde, FL

Overall, God continues to smile upon Woodlands. We enjoyed celebrating our 25th anniversary with a variety of events throughout 2013-2014, culminating in a weekend with Dr. Paul Maier. By God's grace we are approaching the 800 mark in baptized membership. Our partnership with the District's Lutheran Hour Ministries Outreach Initiative provided a tool that resulted in over 50 new members, including 3 adult baptisms and 3 children baptisms, on one weekend this past January (2015). Biblical financial stewardship has kept us debt-free the past three years with a healthy reserve fund for special ministries and the future. Our Early Learning Center is small, but strong and preparing for reaccreditation.

In the area of staffing, a special committee was formed to take a look at anticipated future ministry needs and to determine what staffing will be needed to carry out what God is calling us to accomplish in this corner of His vineyard.

In the area of special events, Over 500 participants have now completed the **Alpha Course** that was introduced in 2007. Our **Children's Choir**, under the direction of Mrs. Debbie Kneser and Minister of Music Charles Crownover, has over 30 participants who help our congregation praise the Lord. The **Outdoor Living Nativity** that we provide for the community each Christmas has expanded to three nights and last year drew nearly 1,800 guests. We are known in the community as the "Church of the Living Nativity!"

Zion New Life Lutheran Church, Winter Garden, FL

Zion New Life Lutheran Church is a faithful congregation. Though there are few members, they are faithful to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. Being recently ordained, I am only reporting on my knowledge of about six months here. In the midst of a financial crisis, some members donated the 100 copies of the Lutheran Service Book to Zion. Since then, the congregation has learned the Liturgy of Divine Service setting 1 and now, more importantly, Divine Service setting 3. Furthermore, Zion has been learning Lutheran hymns and developing a faithful *Kernlieder* through the practice of a "hymn of the month." Most importantly, our Doctrine and Practice are in sync. Zion has completed a 6 month Bible Study on the Lord's Supper and the LCMS' practice of Closed Communion, which all faithful churches must practice. Our communion statement is faithful to Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and to our Synod. In the midst of all of this, giving has increased and church attendance has become steady. The Men's Bible Study is studying the Augsburg Confession, and the Women's Bible Study is studying the Doctrine of Vocation. The Preschool is at capacity and we will be building out two more preschool classrooms.

Circuit 11 – Winter Haven – The Reverend Dean Pfeffer

Our Savior, Zephyrhills, FL, Rev. Tod Shouse

Our Savior Zephyrhills has experienced some changes since the last convention. A new Pastor the Rev. Tod A. Shouse was installed on Sunday Sept. 7, 2014. We are all looking forward to starting a new chapter at Our Savior connecting people to Jesus! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Lake Wales, Lake Wales, FL, Rev. John Glamann

Lake Wales Lutheran Church and Pre-School has had a blessed three years since our last report. We continue to serve an older population; a combination of local members and Winter Friends who spend their winter in the Lake Wales area.

We are seeing a great influx of Northern friends who are volunteering to participate in the ministry of Lake Wales Lutheran Church. One member has organized a group of ladies who quilt during the Winter months. Last year, they quilted over 100 quilts for local use and for Lutheran World Relief. Other members, on a voluntary basis, keep the church grounds and flower beds in great shape. Our Pre-School continues in the fine Lutheran tradition of bringing the love of Jesus to the children of our community. The Pre-School has only one child which is a member of our congregation, therefore, it is a great mission outreach to our community. Someone asked the Pastor, "Do you send members on week long mission trips to Central America?" The Pastor replied, "Our mission field is much closer than that." It is across the parking lot in our Pre School building. We have a VPK program that meets the spiritual and mental needs of 4 year olds in the Lake Wales community.

Hope, Plant City, FL, Rev. Dean Pfeffer

It is with joy that I report how Hope has grown over these years since our last convention to be a church that is so missionally focused! Hope is a congregation that is community centered and community focused. We are a congregation that knows our mission is simply to "Connect People to Jesus" and we strive to do just that.

Hope is a congregation that knows it is blessed by God to be a blessing to others and as a result, seeks to share that blessing through tithes and offerings. Each year, the proceeds of our annual Turkey Supper; Sausage Supper and Strawberry Festival Peanut booth go towards missions locally and globally. (This is in addition to our District tithe). We have been supporting our former Vicar at Concordia, St. Louis and a future DCE at Concordia, Austin. Over the past year, Hope has moved into a leadership position in feeding the homeless at one of our local parks. There we provide both physical and spiritual food for those who are hungry. This is in addition to our partnership with the United Food Bank of Plant City (Pastor serves as a member of their board of directors). Hope also was a primary sponsor in 2014 of the Plant City YMCA 5K Turkey Trot, competing with a team of Hope members there and at the annual Miles for Moffitt runs. Hope is also in a mission partnership with Pastor Miguel Sanabria and supports Pastor Miguel as he leads Spanish worship at Hope each week.

Since our last convention, we have moved into the vicarage ministry and in August, 2015 will bid farewell to our current Vicar as we await our next vicarage blessing from the seminary.

Christ, Lakeland, FL, Rev. Tom Block

The last three years we celebrated our 50th anniversary and paid off our church mortgage. We have given canned goods, cookies, Christmas gifts, and Easter baskets to our local charities plus we have sponsored the Agape Food Bank which has helped over 200 families. During baseball spring training we have sold hot dogs and the money received helped out a local pro-life agency and the Senior Orphans of Lakeland. We have also hosted an Antique Car Show.

Circuit 12 – Heartland – The Reverend Richard Norris

Grace Lutheran Church Arcadia, FL, Rev. Mark Steinke (Pulpit Supply) Vicar Anthony Arias

Grace Lutheran Church had a new beginning and a few hurdles during the past three years. Rev. David Nabinger retired having served the congregation faithfully for seven years. Rev. Mark Steinke is doing Pulpit Supply on Sunday mornings and providing Pastoral services as needed since the departure of Rev. Nabinger. The congregation has established a Seminary Fund to assist Vicar Anthony Arias with expenses associated with the SMP educational process. Vicar Arias is just beginning the process under the supervising Vicarage Pastor, Rev. Richard A. Norris, Circuit Visitor for the Heartland Circuit serving Trinity Lutheran Church, Lake Placid. The mission of the congregation continues to be to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Desoto County. Grace has a core membership of about 25 faithful members throughout the year, expanding to nearly fifty during the winter months joining together to proclaim the Gospel.

Christ Lutheran Church Avon Park, FL, Rev. Scott McLean

These last three years have been ones of struggles and growth as our people "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). Teaching from Lutheranism 101 brought Sunday Bible study participation up to 12 to 14 when our worship attendance was only 20 to 24. Wednesday evening men's and women's groups grew to 7 to 10 participants each as they focused on studying the Word as it encourages us to be men and women of God in fellowship and prayer. Correspondingly, Sunday celebrations of Word and Sacrament began to become more vibrant and meaningful to the congregation. Christmas Eve 2014 service brought a new record for attendance with 59 communicants even with three of our year round families out-of-town. Sunday Bible study attendance has risen to 15 up to 17, and worship attendance has risen to 40 to 45 each week. A new level of joy fills our worship and the work of planning outreach activities has been given greater energy. We are planning our 3rd Annual St. Valentine's Day Dinner to which we invite friends and neighbors to a fun evening of food and fellowship at a local restaurant. Each year the numbers of participants grow, with this year's topping fifty! God indeed is good! We are grateful for these blessings as we seek to be faithful to him and obedient to his Word.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Belle Glade, FL, Rev. Benjamin E. Schroeder

In the last 3 years, the little flock at St. Peter's has been very supportive of their pastor who became a Navy reserve chaplain in 2012. Furthermore, about 3 years ago they renovated one of the church buildings on their property into a beautiful apartment for him. This has allowed him to live near his parishioners and to be active in community events. Beginning with the last school year, the congregation has set the goal of doing service projects in community on a regular basis (1x every 1-2 months) to establish a reputation as a community-caring church and to foster an outreach mindset among members. Outreach activities have included giving homemade baked goodies to first responders in the community, delivering special toys to children in the local hospitals, and handing out avocado gift packages (from our church's avocado trees) to neighbors in church's vicinity. Special tracts and church information are included in gift packages. Pastor Schroeder has also recently started to lead monthly devotions for all elementary students in the community's private school as St. Peter's hopes to make more connections into the community.

Faith Lutheran Church Clewiston, FL, Rev. Alan Koch

The three year period since our last District Convention has been an exciting and busy time here at Faith! The first important item is that we were able to pay off the mortgage on the property and have a mortgage burning at our Thanksgiving Service three years ago. The second item is that the stained glass windows, designed earlier, were all able to be installed in the windows in the narthex. Double pane windows were added to the other rooms of the church building for better insulation and lower electric bills. But the crown of the additions to the building was the enlarging of the Fellowship Hall. Previously the hall sat a maximum of thirty at tables. Now we can seat 85! And the great joy of the completion is that, together with the help of our Winter Residents, we were able to pay off the LCEF loan in 2 ½ years instead of the fifteen years, the original term of the loan.

In terms of worship, we were able to add a wide variety of beautiful banners to enhance the artistic appeal in worship. A beautiful Amboy was brought all the way from Missouri by a winter resident couple for preaching purposes. It has shelves on which to place a computer and sound speakers. This allows the use of power points with videos and pictures to be shown to aid in worship. To that was added an HD TV for the congregation to view and follow in addition to having full printed bulletins. In the last year we added and now offer Holy Communion at every Sunday Service for the blessing and benefit of God's people. The Pastor co-directed the Community Christmas Cantata the past two years and is a member of the Ministerial Association and the Lion's Club of Clewiston. He also administers the Dr. Luke Fund, which helps people released from the hospital who are unable to afford the medications or small medical devices needed to recuperate at home and not have to return to the hospital emergency room again.

We celebrated our 25th Anniversary in 2014, and we look forward to serving the people of our small town for many years to come! Although we, as a congregation, are also small, about 30 members, we also serve at least another thirty Lutheran Winter Resident during their 3 to 5 month stays. If the Lord wills, the ministry will continue and grow. We look forward to many more years of bringing the message of salvation through faith in our Savior Jesus Christ to the people of this area and the Lutheran northerners who partner with us each year!

Faith Lutheran Church Sebring, FL, Rev. Robert Maulella

In February of 2012 Faith became vacant. The Lord was gracious and sent Interim Pastor, Bob Reinhardt, for 9 months. Faith was led through the process of transitioning from one pastorate to another. In 2013 God blessed the congregation with Pastor Tony Douches, vacancy pastor. Over the next 16 months Faith prayed, called two pastors who did not accept, and continued to pray. In October 2014 the congregation received a "Yes" when Robert J. Maulella accepted the call to be full time pastor. "Hip, Hip Hurray!" (This was part of the growing process the congregation learned—to celebrate God's perfect timing!)

After being Installed at a joint Reformation Service, Rob and Linda have been working hard to rebuild, restore and encourage a congregation battered by the waves. Attendance has increased from 66 to 170. Part of this increase is our snowbird population from the North, but it is up about 50 over previous years. Bible Studies abound for Men and Women, along with Discipleship Classes for Adults, Confirmation Classes, Youth Ministry, etc. We even hold one study in a Garage (Sally's Garage), transformed into a small café. A robust Dinner Group meeting monthly at area restaurants touts nearly forty people.

Pastor Rob has encouraged the congregation to practice the Up, In, and Out philosophy of ministry. A few ways we practice this is: Faith's Closet Thrift Store, "one of the best Thrift Stores in Sebring;" Faith's

Food Pantry, which feeds between 60-80 families per month, and Faith's Child Development Center, which teaches 30+ young people, ages 2-4. A dynamic new Director, Yvette Calderon, began in February 2015. Enrollment is increasing weekly, and we are bridging the gap between church and school.

Linda Maulella leads the praise team at our contemporary service. She also teaches music at our preschool, fills in as pianist, trumpeter or soloist during other special services. She serves as one of the non-paid staff.

In addition, faith uses technology to reach the community. A radio broadcast sends our 8 AM Traditional Service along the airwaves. Our 10:30 AM Contemporary Service is videotaped and posted on Youtube.com for all the world to see. Thanksgiving 2014 we fed 275 members of the community—for free. A month later we sent sixty Shoeboxes filled with the Good News (and other small toys collected by members) to Namibia.

God has sent a non-denominational church to share the facilities. They joined us for a Prayer Walk around our property in February 2015 and assist us in our Food Distribution. We are committed to reaching our Hispanic Community as well. We sponsor a missionary in India and encourage our children to bring filled Mite Boxes monthly for missions. We are grateful to our District for all their support and we show it in our monthly financial support.

We still have a long way to go, but with God's assistance and a very supportive Circuit of Pastors we will press on toward the goal of reaching the lost in Highlands County, FL.

Trinity Lutheran Church Lake Placid, FL, Rev. Richard A. Norris (Circuit Visitor)

The past three years have been filled with many emotions. We were faced with declining members, and shrinking revenues so we had to face a reduction in force. Ms. Noel Johnson our Minister of Youth and Family Life left to return to the state of Washington. We certainly did not want this, but we had little choice and have moved forward from that time with boldness and determination to rebuild our congregation is strength and impact on the community. Our Pre-School Trinity Tots celebrated 25 years of ministry. Additionally, Trinity Tots was nationally accredited NLSA which was a monumental task undertaken by our Director Mrs. Susan Norris and the School Board as well as the Staff.

Our attendance has seen tremendous fluctuations from lows of 60's during the summer months to highs of 240 during the winter months. This creates tremendous challenges to our financial planning and budgeting process. By the generous support of the Winter Residents and Associate members the church completed a renovation and repair of the "Youth Haus", expansion of the altar area and extensive upgrades to our audio and video capabilities in our worship center. Additionally, we replaced one of six or our air conditioning units that have cooled and heated our building since 1992, when the building was constructed. Additional upgrades and renovations are planned for the summer of 2015.

Pastor Norris was recently endorsed by the LCMS for his thirty plus years as an Emergency Service Chaplain. Most recently, Pastor established a volunteer chaplain unit for the Highlands County Sheriff's Office.

Trinity continues to have a strong presence in South Highlands County and looks forward to a growing and vibrant ministry in the years to come. Trinity celebrates our 40 year of ministry this year and we will be having a variety of activities to commemorate this milestone.

Peace Lutheran Church, Okeechobee, FL, Rev. John Hirst

The family of God at Peace gives thanks to our wonderful God for the many blessings he has poured out through The Gospel and Sacraments during 43 years of ministry in Okeechobee County. He continues to call, gather, enlighten and sanctify His people, and helps us hold out the Word of Life to the residents of the county as well as numerous winter friends. We are the only Lutheran Congregation for 30-40 miles in any direction.

Our school ministry continues to flourish and is our signature ministry in the community. We are in the NLSA accreditation update process to be completed in 2015. Our Youth and family ministry team continue to develop both Junior and Senior Youth ministries and have attended the district youth gatherings.

We continue to feed the hungry in our town by our "Feed My Sheep" program which contributed the most food through our food drives to the local co-operative ministry. We also serve meals to the homeless in our Peace Meal Ministry on a monthly basis. We are participating in the three year LHM Outreach Initiative which has given birth to several ongoing outreach ministries in the community. We are committed to be a Bible-Based, Gospel-Centered, Mission-Focused, and Future-Oriented family of believers in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Peace Valley Lutheran Church, Wachula, FL, Rev. Bruce Sommerfield

Once again the Lord has richly blessed His congregation at Wachula. Our attendance has held steady at about 23 in the summer months and soars to 90 plus during the winter season. We have gained some new members and have lost some faithful believers through their journey to eternal life.

Peace Valley has only one fundraiser per year- our annual spaghetti dinner in February. This year we broke all existing records as we served 467 people. These funds are used for special projects and also assists us in getting through the summer months.

Our special Mission project again this year was to aid and benefit the children of Hardee County who are under the Guardian Ad Litum of the courts. We were able to purchase gifts for 40 children and also provide them with meals at several times throughout the year.

To God be the glory, and to His name the praise.

Circuit 13– Suncoast – The Reverend Dr. David Brockhoff

Forest Oaks Lutheran Church, Spring Hill, FL, Pastor Glenn Fischer

The ministry at Forest Oaks Lutheran Church continues to be both challenging and exciting. Aside from our Food Pantry ministry which continues to grow by leaps and bounds, our Sunday School ministry has grown from "zero" to thirteen students in the past year. Said students have come our way via our Food Pantry and our dedicated Sunday School staff has done a stellar job in creating a loving atmosphere to share the message of Jesus Christ with these otherwise un-churched individuals. Additionally, our new Church Council members are in the process of discussing new and creative ways to spread the message of Christ Jesus to the people of Spring Hill and enable the congregation to wrap their mind around and embrace a more effective ministry model for our day and age.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Trinity, FL, Pastor Marc E Nauman

God is continuing to bless Trinity Lutheran Church! In April of 2013, we moved into our new multi-purpose building, in July of 2014 we purchased additional property with plans of building a sanctuary, and we've also added a Saturday night service to accommodate our growth (we hired a part-time "Director of Music and Visual Arts" to assist with the added workload of a 3rd service.) Our youth and children's ministry also is growing thanks to many faithful volunteers. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Lutz, FL, Pastor Ed Harkey

The last three years at Holy Trinity, Land O' Lakes/Lutz, have included the retirement of one Pastor, an interim, and - to the glory of God - the calling of a new Pastor. While this has consumed much of the congregation's time and energy, it is not the sole matter that continued to define our mission and ministry during this last Triennium. We are once again experiencing some growth in worship, all the while continuing to build community among our members. In our joy of blessing others outside of our congregation, we continue to support a broad range of community programs, as we also regularly open our doors to a variety of groups who make use of our Activity Center and Heaven's Kitchen. In the coming three years we will be engaging our members in ministry and service by joining the Seasons of Discovery process through Transforming Churches Network, the Consecrated Stewards process, as well as looking to develop a comprehensive strategy in order to minister to all age groups of our congregation and Preschool through the Family Friendly Partner's Network. The congregation is poised for growth, which, by God's grace and blessing, we will achieve in the coming months and years.

Faith Lutheran Church, New Port Richey, FL, Pastor Thomas Wenndt

God continues to multiply blessings many-fold amongst His FAITH-ful flock in New Port Richey, even as the last triennium has been mostly a time of transition. Following the retirements of Pastor Roy Lidbom and Pastor Robert Steinke, the congregation was led through an intentional interim ministry led by the Rev. Henry Baum. Upon its conclusion, the Rev. Gilbert Kuehn became vacancy pastor, a position he held faithfully until the end of January, 2015. At long last, the Lord granted Faith a new full-time shepherd, as the Rev. Thomas Wenndt accepted the call of the people of Faith in January. He was installed January 31st.

Towards the end of the interim, in November of 2014, the congregation completed a study in which they completely revamped both a mission and vision statement for the congregation. The mission statement is: "LOVING CHRIST AND MAKING HIS LOVE KNOWN." The vision statement is: "WITH THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: LEADING BY EXAMPLE, SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE, SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS WHILE BUILDING BRIDGES WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY TO CONNECT PEOPLE WITH CHRIST!"

Right at the end of the time of vacancy, the long- (LONG!-)time shepherd of Faith, the Rev. Roy Lidbom, was granted life everlasting. The service of life eternal on February 6th, 2015, was graced with nearly two dozen clergy and many more extensions of condolence, sympathy, and prayer from around the Synod.

As Faith enters the next triennium, it will continue to move forward in addressing opportunities brought about through local challenges involving changing community, cultural, and even congregational demographics. But, as the people rise to meet these challenges, as part of the Body of Christ, this will also continue to be a church focused on "devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (*Acts 2:42*)

In 2016, the congregation will celebrate sixty years of God's grace. He who has been our Help in ages past will continue to bless us as our hope for years to come.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Masaryktown, FL, Pastor David Brockhoff

The Holy Spirit continues to use the ministry of Word and Sacrament to instill the life of Christ to the glory of the Father here in Masaryktown. A vibrant outreach witnessed in our food pantry, weekend backpack, prison ministry, midweek Outreach Christian Arts Ministry, bike give-away, to name a few, give testimony to the life and love of Christ growing among. We expect to lean heavily on the Lutheran Hour Ministry material to better equip to turn these acts of service into opportunities for more intentional connections to Jesus even as we look for those opportunities in our own web of influence.

Christ Lutheran Church, Brooksville, FL, Pastor Paul Meseke

We are pleased that two new ministries have taken off like wildfire. God's Clothes Closet began with 3 bags of clothing that we did not know what to do with! Our ladies put their heads together and came up with clothing for the homeless in our area and the truly less fortunate. It has grown from twice a month to every Wednesday a.m. and p.m. times for shopping. We give out clothing of all kinds, men's women's, children's of all sizes. What began in one small room now takes up about 400 square feet of our education/office area, with over twelve volunteers heading up the effort. The community has really rallied behind this effort as well. We estimate that we have over 1200 lbs. of clothing hanging on racks and regularly have 15 or more containers of new (to us) clothing every week. In 6 months we have helped well over 1,000 of the homeless in our area, Thanks be to God.

We also began a program called "Walk Around Food," and it gives out portable food to the homeless at specified points in and around the Brooksville area. The homeless can get food assistance Monday's through Thursday's, but Friday through Sunday, far less is available and the walk around food fills the gap a little bit. Three men head up this ministry and we are truly gaining eye opening experiences and numerous opportunities to share the love of Jesus to people unaccustomed to someone caring.

One more ministry at its infancy is mentoring high school students from broken homes and homes without two parents. We, with the help of some in the education community, are putting willing members of the congregation and high school students together for a Christian kind of Big Brothers/Big Sisters sort of arrangement. It is working with a few adults and students and we hope to expand this program into 2015 and help these young people to also gain a relationship with Jesus as their Savior, and glean life experience from the mentors. Those presently in this program are overjoyed.

We are thankful to God for our New Organist/choir director, as Robin Walter was all the time in our backyard, and is now again active and doing what she loves for the Lord, and the congregation is loving her being with us and serving God among us.

Having taken in 42 new members this past year (all retired), we are thankful to God for all the experience and new ideas that have come to Christ Lutheran Church, and we are willingly and desiring the changes. All of the new ministries have come about without the Pastor initiating them or suggesting them. We are finding a resurgence of new life after a group from the congregation went on a mission trip to Panama this past summer. It was a provided shot in the arm that we truly needed. Christ Lutheran Church is pleased that we are going into our second fifty years with more going on and building ministries that reach out to our community, through which we can do outreach of the Gospel.

Hope Lutheran Church, Hudson, Pastor Kent Fuqua

Hope will be celebrating its 40th anniversary of service to our Lord Jesus Christ this year. We will also be renovating our sanctuary to bring it into the 21st century by adding 5 large TV's to project the worship liturgy as well as many other things. The re-dedication of our physical plant will coincide with the 40th Anniversary. Hope is very active in our community. We serve meals at the Salvation Army food kitchen. We are the only church involved in the Hudson Relay For Life and have done so for five years. We clean up a major road in Hudson four times a year, and the pastor is a Trauma Chaplain and an on-call Chaplain at Regional Medical Center Bayonet Point. We serve our community as a Cold-Night Shelter with County support. Our Quilters make about 200 quilts a year for Lutheran World Relief.

Circuit 14 – St. Petersburg – The Reverend Arnold Piering

First Lutheran Church and School, Clearwater, Florida

During this triennium, First Lutheran took a team to Costa Rica for a mission trip. We also hosted three annual Winter Visitor Appreciation Banquets, We developed and implemented a Ministry Plan to enable us to better achieve our ministry goals.

Our school received its NLSA Accreditation, and saw an increase in school attendance from 136 in 2012 to 143 in 2015. We also added a full-time staff person in the area of Youth & Family Ministry. The Reverend Paul Zimmermann retired in 2013 and First Lutheran has extended a call for a pastor to serve the congregation.

During the summer of 2014, First Lutheran was involved in a School Renewal Project that included several other congregations in the circuit.

Bethel Lutheran Church, Clearwater, Florida

Bethel Lutheran Church has been actively busy through a healthy season of change and transition. Plans for renovations and repairs for our extensive roof have led us to discuss options with L.C.E.F. Discussion of expanding through this process with launching a Pre-school are also being entertained and considered. We have extended a Divine Call to Rev. Eric Eichinger, which he has accepted to become our Associate pastor in 2014, and now in 2015 and in anticipation of Rev. Timothy Parsch's retirement, we have called Rev. Eichinger to serve as our new active Sr. Pastor.

Faith Lutheran Church, Dunedin, Florida

Faith Lutheran of Dunedin, Florida continues its focus on Biblical literacy and human care ministry. Together with its ongoing and seasonal Bible Studies, Faith completed a yearlong study of the Bible in chronological order titled *The Story* in 2013. Faith's ongoing Caring Ministry team maintains contact with each household of the congregation and regularly supports the members with prayers and assistance. 2015 will be a year of focus on the call process as Pastor Kolb retires. Plans are well underway for an interim Pastor to come in to lead the process.

Christ The King Lutheran Ministries, Largo, Florida

God has been stretching our congregation's outreach by means of our new Christian Ministry Center. The Christian Outreach Center, a bus ministry to underprivileged children in the Largo and Clearwater area has taken up residence with us. A number of our members assist with preparing meals and helping work with the children as a part of this important ministry. Our Loving Arms Christian Preschool received its NLSA accreditation, and we are continuing to find God blessing us with an overabundance of students, even during these trying times. Through New Hope Counseling Center, we are able to bring the hope of the living Christ to countless hurting families. Each of these ministries are bridged together with Christ The King in such a way that we are learning to identify ourselves as being Christ The King Lutheran Ministries, with many ministries under one ministry umbrella. We celebrate the growth to the Kingdom that God is bringing about in and through this place!

Grace Lutheran Church and School, St. Petersburg, Florida

During the last triennium, we placed an emphasis on outreach and our day school ministry. We achieved an NLSA accreditation. We called an assistant pastor, the Reverend Jarrod Hartman, to serve in the areas of Outreach and Youth Ministry. Grace Lutheran Church approved a long-range plan to improve our facilities, that included renovating our sanctuary and building a new multi-purpose facility, which included a gymnasium. We initiated a capital campaign to raise 2.5 million dollars and to date we have \$750,000 pledged toward the goal of the campaign.

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, St. Petersburg, Florida

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School is a multi-site ministry with campuses in St. Petersburg and Clearwater, Florida.

In the last triennium we have experienced a great deal of change and blessing. Our Savior not only became a multi-site ministry but in order to grow the ministry and be "LIVING LOVE" we continued to maintain our Living Love Early Childcare Center.

To meet the needs of a growing ministry and facilitate vibrant and relevant worship at both campuses, Our Savior has developed three different distinct styles of worship. The Reverend Ryan Moore has accepted a call to serve and we are in the process of calling another assistant pastor.

Our Savior Lutheran School continues to do well under the leadership of Jesse Crosmer. We are also blessed with a faithful and dedicated staff. Other blessings we are experiencing are various outreach and mission opportunities.

Circuit 15 – Tampa – The Reverend Kevin L. Yoakum

Christ The King Lutheran Church, Riverview, FL

Under the pastoral care and shepherding of Rev. Kevin Yoakum, Christ The King continues to be a faithful, although smaller, Lutheran congregation. Our mission is to connect people to Jesus Christ in our homes, church, community, and world with truth, with grace, and with passion.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Brandon, FL

Over the past triennium, the people of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School have served the community and shared the love, joy, and peace of Jesus Christ.

Lamb Of God Lutheran Church, Lithia, FL

In the last triennium, Lamb of God Lutheran has reprogrammed their Open Arms Early Childhood ministry to focus on preschool and childcare. They formed a partnership with a community organization, Blessed Bottoms Diaper Bank. Lamb of God was also able to begin an Open Hands Food Pantry. In June of 2014, Pastor Wood received and accepted a call to serve as Director of Witness and Outreach for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Since then, Lamb of God has been served by their vacancy pastor, Rev. Jerry Munz. It has also begun a new 3-year agreement with Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Lutheran Church Of The Holy Trinity, Tampa, FL

Holy Trinity brought on a new pastor, Rev. Andrew Schermbeck, in the summer of 2012. The church and its school ministry have experienced growth over the past three years. With growth taking place, a new principal came on board at the beginning of the 2014-15 academic year. The congregation anticipates new opportunities in ministry will continue to present themselves.

Messiah Lutheran Church, Carrollwood, FL

In the summer of 2013, our assistant pastor, Rev. Scott Burmeister, received and accepted a call to another congregation. In the spring of 2014, after decades of faithful service, the Reverend James Guelzow retired from the Messiah. The congregation is currently in the process of calling a pastor.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Tampa, FL

In 2014, faced with increasing challenges, St. Matthew Lutheran Church was taken into the ministry of Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Tampa. They now exist as a satellite campus, Family of Christ West, and are now a member congregation of the SELC District.

Zion Lutheran Church, Tampa, FL

Zion Lutheran in Tampa is the mother church of the Lutheran churches in the Tampa area. They are served faithfully by retired pastors, Rev. Pat O'Brien, Rev. Lee Stisser, and Rev. Charles Trower.

Circuit 16 – Sarasota – The Reverend Rosseter Leavitt

The sister congregations of the Sarasota Circuit are working together in sharing God's Word and His love in Christ to those living in the southwestern area of Florida. Church and School Ministries have been richly blessed these past three years and looking forward to the future reaching out to those in their communities as doors open for new members.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sarasota, FL

The ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in Sarasota is finally moving forward! After a long vacancy, Good Shepherd's call was accepted by Pastor Steve Anderson who had been serving in the Minnesota North District for the past 12 years. Pastor Anderson was installed at Good Shepherd in August 2014. Now, with consistent pastoral leadership, the ministry of both church and school are taking shape as we transition from maintaining to moving ever forward. These are exciting times at Good Shepherd as the Lord leads both church and school in exciting new directions. We are thankful to God for providing for Good Shepherd for the past 2 years and for the exciting future that He has in store for His children at Good Shepherd!

Lakeside Lutheran Church, Venice, FL

It is with thanksgiving to God and joy that the congregation just celebrated their 60th Anniversary of sharing the love of God in Christ in south Sarasota County. The congregation welcomed two new part time pastors to assist with the growing ministry during this triennium. The Rev. Dr. Jack Miller is the Visitation Pastor and The Rev. George Lobien is helping with the preaching and teaching in the congregation. The Lakeside Concert Series continues to grow in attendance and community appreciation. The congregation is currently seeking a new Minister to Children and Youth. Lakeside's preschool continues to provide quality care and education in a Christ centered environment to children from Venice and North Port.

Lutheran Church of the Cross, Port Charlotte, FL

Rev. Ken Redmann reports that after eight years of delay it was determined that Charlotte County was stone-walling approval of a building permit for the Cross Monument. The congregation courageously engaged the support of Liberty Counsel and within 60 days the County relented and issued a building permit. The Cross Monument was dedicated in 2014 and plans are progressing for the Prayer Park surrounding the Cross Monument Prayer Park. The community is invited to visit and offer their prayers to our Lord and Savior. The congregation has conducted a Vision Workshop and are excited about the blessings God continues to shower upon them.

Hope Lutheran Church, Bradenton, FL

There have been challenges for God's people at Hope Lutheran in Bradenton. Last year, after 30 years of operation, Hope Lutheran Preschool and Child Care officially closed due to financial concerns. But there are bright spots that indicate a turn-around has begun. Almost immediately after the preschool closed, another private school began renting the facilities where the preschool was housed and is allowing Hope to conduct religious education classes as part of the lease agreement. In addition, although 2012 showed only three adult confirmations, both 2013 and 2014 showed five or more. (2013 – ten, 2014 – six) The challenge is to fuel and build on this fledgling momentum in order to strengthen it. As the

momentum continues to build, we seek to be guided by these ongoing principles – 1. Add value not venues. We need to consider the purpose and how does it fit our vision and mission. 2. Think training over teaching. Our mission is to make disciples and this is best accomplished by training, for training includes knowledge and action. 3. Design for ministry ends not means. Therefore we do ministry not for the sake of being busy, but to make disciples. 2015 and beyond will see Hope Lutheran begin a process of evaluation of health and vitality as well as a potential restructure of its systems so that we can produce the results that will help us achieve our vision – A healthy and vibrant community of Christian disciples of all ages sharing God’s love with others.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Englewood, FL

Redeemer has been serving the people of the Englewood area since 1979. Pastor James Kress continues as their Pastor and leads the congregation forward under God’s grace. Their ministries include a Child Care Center, Helping Hands, an active Senior Fellowship, and a Quilter’s Group. An added Stephen’s Ministry and classes have started to assist and support the needs of the members of the congregation.

Faith Lutheran Church, Parrish, FL

Pastor Philip Vangen, after serving for more than a decade as Faith’s Pastor, retired from his ministry with his congregation. They are in the process of praying and choosing a new Shepherd that will guild them in the future. Faith celebrated their 35th Anniversary of their ministry to this growing area of Florida. A prayer chain, Food Bank, and active LWML fill the church’s mission with many opportunities to serve the members and those in the community.

Faith Lutheran Church, Punta Gorda, FL

By the grace of God . . . we are “Empowering All People to Know Jesus Christ!” We were blessed in 2012 to have a 32-foot tall mural of Jesus Christ painted on one side of our “Trinity Tower (along with God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit renderings added on the other sides). This provided a welcomed, and much needed, exposure and connection for people in our community as we celebrated our 40th year in 2013. We sponsored an Eagle Scout project that completely refurbished and beautified our Memorial Garden, and we continue to sponsor a Venturing Scout crew that has won numerous awards. We recently completed an extensive landscape and property appearance upgrade which now wonderfully welcomes our visitors and members to God’s House!

Over the past three years, we have experienced a steady increase in Mission opportunities to care for our members/community/world, Bible study opportunities, overall membership, and worship attendance.

Our “Care & Share” ministry (to our home-bound and shut-in members) has provided exceptional support to those who desire conversation and care in their homes. We’ve raised funds and actively participated in three Habitat for Humanity builds and monthly have collect food for the Salvation Army food bank and Veteran’s Retirement Home. We’ve partnered with our LWML to provide hundreds of pairs of children’s shoes to and Amigos en Christo, give quilts/lap blankets to the needy, and

(with proceeds from our annual Flea Market) we’ve provided support to various community organizations and projects. We’ve regularly sent ‘care packages’ to Military units stationed abroad and

have also collected discarded cell phones and redeemed them to give as telephone gift cards. We've more than doubled Bible Study opportunities (adding more Women's and Men's classes, plus offering summer classes for our year-round residents). We have a revitalized and growing in-season Small Group Bible study program and provide regular information classes. We've provided two Senior VBS programs and held an annual Woman's Retreat. In-season worship attendance is now averaging more than 330 per week – with baptized membership rising above the 250 mark (with 70+ Associate members). Saturday evening attendance has increased 24%, and our Advent and Lenten mid-week services average more than 90 people each week – as we added a meal for each evening and limited our worship service to 30 minutes. God has richly blessed us. Soli Deo Gloria!

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Sarasota, FL

A new addition was added to the present Fellowship Hall, making more room for Bible Studies, Congregation Suppers, and other church activities, as well as reaching out to the community with GriefShare, Divorce Care, local elementary school assistance, AA, and classes such as Financial Peace University. The staff includes Senior Pastor Rusty Leavitt; SMP Pastor Todd Kuehn; DCE Tara Concepcion (celebrated 5 years with us); Office Manager Pam Kirkpatrick (also celebrated 5 years keeping things running in the office); Jim Herre, Organist & Choir Director; and Norm Vagn, Music Director and Band Leader for our Contemporary Services. Weekends are busy with five worship services and bible classes for adults and children on Saturdays and Sundays. Our Youth, Women and Men's Ministries are growing and added growth is happening also with our Senior Adult Ministry under the guidance of lay leader and Elder Norm Kurtz.

Concordia Lutheran Church, Sarasota, FL

In the past triennium, Concordia Sarasota's average worship attendance has increased 13%, to 191 saints, while giving has increased 13% to \$263,000. An \$112,000 building addition added bathrooms and storage to our 1948 fellowship hall. The saints joyfully raised an additional 10% of the cost and sent \$11,200 to our District's mission work. Eight 12-step groups and neighborhood organizations are blessed by Concordia's fellowship hall. The education building hosts a partner preschool. The former parsonage welcomes Family Promise, a network of local congregations with Concordia serving homeless families. Concordia recently joined Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity; 15 congregations urging county leaders towards justice, fairness and peace. Pastor Stephen Gaulke, having served eleven years, was granted a three-month sabbatical this summer. Until his return, retired Pastor Ted Wuerffel attends to the congregation.

Circuit 17 – Southwest – The Reverend Jon Zehnder

Southwest Florida Circuit is made up of fifteen congregations that touch hearts and lives in three counties. Our ministries reach from the northern most parts of Lee County, to Marco Island in the south, from Cape Coral to the west to Immokalee and LaBelle to the East.

Our Circuit is blessed with three Lutheran Elementary Schools (Good Shepherd – North Fort Myers; St. Michael – Fort Myers; Trinity – Cape Coral), plus five free-standing Pre-School ministries (Zion – South Fort Myers; Bethlehem – East Fort Myers; Hope – Bonita Springs; Grace – Naples; Peace - Naples).

Somewhat unique to the Southwest Circuit is the number of Winter Associate members and winter guests that call our congregations their “home church” anywhere from two weeks to up to six months. Ministry opportunities present themselves in a different way when some of our congregations double or more in size during the “season.”

Through our Circuit Outreach Council, our congregations assist in the support of: (1) Thrive Community Church (the mission start in Estero and the FGCU campus) led by missionary planters Rev. John Roth and Phil Klopke; (2) the ongoing ethnic ministries in our area - Amigos en Cristo (Hispanic Outreach) led by Rev. Bob Selle and Vicar Karl Glander (1st year SMP student), and Bethlehem Haitian Church led by Rev. Andre Mezilus and Saint Luc Charelus (4th year EIT student); (3) Voice of Faith (Muslim Outreach); and (4) Spirit of Naples (Faith based films).

In this past triennium, our Circuit celebrated the installation of Rev. Curtis Deterding at Zion Lutheran - South Fort Myers, and the completion of colloquy for both Rev. Andre Mezilus and Rev. Nick Moskovites.

Our Circuit is blessed to have several “veterans of the cross” who share their counsel and perspective: Rev. Ron Brusius; Rev. Jim Dishop; Rev. Mark Gaertner; Rev. Karl Galik; Rev. Steven Hess; Rev. Roger Hubbard; Rev. Fred Koehler, Rev. Bernt Larson; Rev. Dick Miller, Rev. Bob Scudieri; Rev. Paul Weber; and Rev. Carl Zahrte.

The Southwest Circuit is made up of: Trinity – Cape Coral (Rev. CJ Kanefke); Good Shepherd – North Ft. Myers (Rev. Jerry Lawson); Bethlehem – East Ft. Myers (Rev. Darrell Stuehrenberg); St. Michael – Midtown Ft. Myers (Rev. Jon Zehnder; Rev. Steve Hess); Zion – South Ft. Myers (Rev. Curtis Deterding; Rev. Don Hinchey); Bethlehem Haitian Church - Immokalee (Rev. Andre Mezilus and Saint Luc Charelus); Christ the King – LaBelle (Rev. Nick Moskovites); Beautiful Savior – Lehigh Acres (Rev. Juan Gonzalez); Thrive Community - Estero/FGCU Mission (Rev. John Roth; Phil Klopke); Amigos in Cristo – Hispanic Outreach (Rev. Bob Selle and Vicar Karl Glander); Hope – Bonita Springs (Rev. Richard Browning); Grace – Naples (Rev. Keith Lingsch); Peace – Naples (Rev. Dennis Liebich); Marco – Marco Island (Rev. Kevin Koenig; Rev. Ken Garazin); and Messiah – Golden Gate (vacant).

Circuit 18 – Treasure Coast – The Reverend Kenneth E. Larson

The Lutheran the Redeemer, Vero Beach, FL, Pastor Russell Johnson

Prayerfully, with plans for a more contemporary Saturday service after Easter, and inviting the parents of the school children, we will begin to experience growth once again. Thanks be to God, our preschool is almost at capacity. Thanks be to God, our numbers in worship are increasing, our Bible Studies are alive and well, and our Confirmation Classes are going well. We continue working on reaching out to the community around us "to seek and to save the lost". As its Pastor, I experience some health issues in 2014; but entered 2015 with my doctors smiling at how well I'm doing now. Praise God from Whom ALL Blessings Flow! But, with God's grace and mercy, we will move through whatever the future brings, and continue proclaiming the message of “Grace alone, Faith Alone, and Scripture alone”.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Pierce, FL, Pastor Craig Bode

Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Pierce, Florida, was blessed by God over the past triennium as His Word continues to faithfully accomplish what He desires and achieve the purpose for which He sends it. (Isaiah

55:11) In November 2012 Trinity celebrated the installation of Rev. Craig H. Bode as their new Pastor, who brings 35 years of parish ministry experience to the challenges and opportunities God has placed before this outpost for the gospel. Throughout this period Trinity was guided by our participation in the Florida-Georgia District/Lutheran Hour Ministries Outreach Initiative, which supplied a number of our members with beneficial training and the opportunity to field test GodConnects, the new curriculum for Adult Instruction. Trinity has been blessed in the past 3 years to add 21 new converts to Christ, as well as receiving other new members through transfer. Of special note is the abundant blessing of God upon our Open Arms Early Childhood Learning Center, under our Director, Loretta Gibbons. Our Open Arms School, operating in its brand new building addition to our church facilities, grew from twelve students to an current enrollment of 145 young lives, growth that shows no sign of slowing. It continues to win awards and recognition for its effectiveness in Early Childhood Learning. In addition to hosting Family Meals Inc., a new community outreach to families, Trinity continues to maintain and build a strong long-term partnership with other community-based programs and organizations that include Sarah's Kitchen, Mustard Seed, Harvest Food and Outreach Center, and Hope's Closet.

Exciting ministries and significant outreach initiatives that have been launched and are currently unfolding include the establishment of a Food Pantry, to help those in our community struggling with providing the basic needs of life and an Adopt-a-Grandchild partnership between Trinity Church and Open Arms to support and bring the love of Christ to the children of our school. A challenge that compels the focused attention and commitment of Trinity as we move into the future God has for us is continuing to discover effective ways to seek, reach, connect with and draw into our fellowship the lost and unchurched from a community that has become much more diverse and distant from the established church. Plans are developing to launch a Lifetree Café, which will offer an alternative point of entry to our church for the unchurched and dechurched. Other outreach opportunities being prayerfully considered include Celebrate Recovery, a Christ-center 12 Step Recovery Ministry, and Financial Peace University. We are also intentionally examining our process for incorporating new members and prevent the unfortunate back door loss of inactive members. As one of many outposts of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Trinity remains committed to serving Christ and fulfilling the Great Commission at this time and in this place where God has planted us.

Grace Lutheran Church, Port St. Lucie, FL, Pastor Gene Johnson

Over the last few years, Grace has been transitioning from an established church to a missional church with a focus on making disciples. Pastor Gene has been involved with the Pastoral Leadership Institute in the Missional Leader module. The resources from PLI have begun to be implemented into the life of Grace through community groups and intentional missional leadership development, which have helped lead Grace to a greater understanding of what it means to be the Church in the 21st century, post-church context. In 2013, Grace spent a year working through the entire narrative of the Bible using "The Story." This was an opportunity for many of our people to experience the full narrative of God's redemptive story for the first time. In 2014, we used Greg Finke's book "Joining Jesus on His Mission" to help put us in position to make disciple-making the primary focus of our lives.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Stuart, FL, Pastors David Albers and Brian Gauthier

Redeemer is blessed. We continue to strive to reach out into our community to be the best for the community. This means sharing the love of Christ through word and deed. Here are a few highlights:

- Our school ministry has seen its highest enrollment in its history.
- Through a three year capital campaign (in its third year), we are paying off the mortgage, fixing infrastructure, and expanding our mission. We hope to burn the mortgage this fall, earlier than expected.
- And most exciting, in March 2015, we launched efforts to plant a new mission in south St. Lucie County. The Lord is good all the time!

Bethel Lutheran Church, Hobe Sound, FL, Pastor Ed Scott

Bethel Lutheran Church and Preschool in Hobe Sound, Florida, is a small and caring ministry, undergirded in all we do by the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord. The congregation has always been an older group, and it has proven challenging to change that persona. We continue to experiment and to reach out and serve by presenting our community with opportunities that are godly and unique. One thing we focus on effectively is offering unique and appealing topical discussions. Pastor has led discussions on topics such as "Les Miserables" by Victor Hugo (using both book and movie versions, and touching extensively on the theme of grace), discussions of books such as "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens (focusing on themes of repentance and preparation), "As One Devil to Another" by Richard Platt (a highly acclaimed contemporary rendering of C.S. Lewis "The Screwtape Letters" focusing on temptations relevant to the 21st century), and numerous others. Our latest effort (in 2015) was a class entitled "Is Heaven For Real, What About Hell: An Exploration of Dying, Death and Life After Death," (discussing bestselling books on near death experiences, and exploring the evolution of beliefs about heaven and hell from ancient times until today). We also have done Bible studies on some of Paul's Pastoral Epistles. For several years now one of our lay leaders has been leading a small but stalwart group through a study of the Bible book by book, starting with Genesis. They are in the Gospel of Mark now. In between our major topics, we also watch movies together in a series we call "Movies That Matter," where we discuss contemporary movies about stimulating and challenging subjects (for example, Nicky's Family). Our Preschool ministry is considered one of the premier early childhood facilities in our county. After experiencing several years of decline in enrollment precipitated by the sluggish economy, we used our time constructively to retool and expand our services. By the grace of God and the dint of hard work, our enrollment is again over 100 and still growing. 2016 marks the 30 year anniversary of Bethel Lutheran Preschool. Plans to make the year special are underway. In 2014 we also explored other options to be present in our community. We explored teaming up with an existent Early Head Start Agency to reach out to lower income families, but discovered it was not feasible for us. We explored renting facilities to a local start-up congregation affiliated with another denomination, but we mutually parted ways after nearly one year of discussions. We currently host a small, independent Haitian Bible Study (in Creole). Yes, we may be small, but we are certainly very busy serving others and experiencing the blessings of God.

Faith Lutheran Church, North Palm Beach, FL, Pastor Ken Fuehler, Intentional Interim

Rev. Ken Fuehler, Certified Intentional Interim Minister, began his ministry with Faith on March 1, 2014. A **Transition Team** was nominated from the congregation and was delayed by various interruptions until beginning to meet in August.

During this time, our first **Evening Prayer Circle** met and continues to do so monthly. We went to one worship time on July 4—our **“10 at 10”** series. For six Sundays and several weekdays during these non-school months we gathered with Pastor Ken for our **“Fabulous 60s”** when we shared our congregational and personal assets and worked to connect them for ministries.

For four Sundays of July, our **contemporary worship crowd visited** other contemporary worship services and then gathered to talk about their experiences . . . we learned a lot about ourselves through these visits and conversations. On September 1 **Janet Cunningham** became our praise team director, and our praise team has grown to five.

We started a trial of a **2-service format** on September 14; that just didn't work. On January 11 we returned to a **3-service format**; with Pastor Fuehler *promising* it would stay that way (excluding Summer) until six months after our new Pastor arrives.

Our **Transition Team** meets 3 to 4 times per month. Challenged by the developmental tasks of a congregation during the time between two settled pastors, they learned the rationale behind these tasks—one being to involve as many members as possible in the tasks.

Following the “Fabulous 60s” events, the second congregational activity was **“Back to the Future”** on December 14—a look at our history. Then, on March 8 we gathered to **“Create a Mission and Vision for Faith Lutheran Church”** believing these are vitally important in *Calling* a new pastor. If we can't describe why we are here and where we believe our congregation is called to go, how can we describe and look for a new pastor to lead us or know when we found him? The resulting Mission Statement and Vision Statements were shared with our congregation on April 5.

The Transition Team set to work writing a congregational profile and a pastor profile for our **Call Committee** to use in their process. These, too, were shared with the congregation so all know why we are seeking the type of pastor whom we are Calling.

The final tasks are being worked on while the Call Committee is fulfilling their responsibilities. We pray we will be in the Call Process at the time of the FL-GA District Convention.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, West Palm Beach, FL

No report

New Alliance Haitian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pastor Michel Ovil

No report

Circuit 19 – South Palm Beach – The Reverend James Weist

The South Palm Beach Circuit continues to be blessed by meeting as a joint circuit with the Treasure Coast Circuit. Pastor Ken Larson has faithfully served the Treasure Coast Circuit over the last 9 years and his term will be ending this summer and Pastor Craig Bode of Trinity, Ft. Pierce will assume the Circuit Visitor role. Pastor Ken Larson has done a wonderful job of leading and organizing both our circuits. We are a very close circuit with a united heart for mission. We genuinely care about what is happening in the lives of each pastor and his call. Pastor Ken's love for others was specifically shown when our dear brother in Christ, Pastor JR Jones of St. Paul Boca, went to be with our Lord in Heaven last October. Our circuit gathered together to remember (share and reflect) our love for JR and his passion for Jesus in our Circuit. We all were blessed to attend the service celebrating his life later that day.

Pastor JR and Ken helped to lead the Call process at Epiphany Lutheran Church and School in Lake Worth, FL. In June, Pastor Jim Weist was installed as the Sr. Pastor. In October Pastor Jim Weist was elected by his peers to service as the Circuit visitor of the South Palm Beach Circuit.

Pastor Steve Carretto of St Paul, Boca is doing a wonderful job of serving his church during this time of transition. They are working with Pastor Scott Gress with TCN and the FL-GA District as they seek to be faithful to God's mission.

The South Palm Beach Circuit hosted a workshop on worship that was attended by many lay leaders from both our circuits. The goal of the workshop was to help our congregations be faithful to our Lutheran history while allowing for creativity in our desire to reach out to our communities. This workshop was held at Trinity, Delray which is experiencing growth as they revitalized their worship services over the last few years.

All the churches of the South Palm Beach Circuit continue to seek ways to creatively reach out...by working with LWML, starting a Celebrate Recovery Ministry, Haitian and Hispanic ministries, concerts in the park, new church plants, bible studies, and a desire to work alongside our District. We unequivocally support our Districts vision: "Every member...equipped, empowered, engaged...Connecting people to Jesus." We are so thankful for the wonderful staff of the FL-GA District and the leadership of our District President, Greg Walton. May we all be about... "Living the Great Commission."

Circuit 20 – Gold Coast – The Reverend Timothy Hartner

"Transitions" would be a word to describe Circuit 20. Congregations and pastorates went through significant transitions in this past triennium. What has remained constant are congregations seeking to offer a faithful, Lutheran Christian witness in a corner of God's Kingdom where few people know what a "Lutheran" is – much less a Missouri Synod one! Yet, By Grace – For Christ's Sake – Through Faith that witness continues and lights shine, giving glory to our Father in heaven.

Grace Tabernacle Haitian Lutheran Church

Rev. Bernard Julmiste serves the congregation with a vibrant and growing ministry. The congregation is the only Haitian congregation in the Synod with an early childhood through Grade 8 ministry as Faith Lutheran School is now a ministry of Grace Lutheran. Mt. Gerizim Haitian Lutheran Church under the leadership of Rev. Oslet Maccenat, also worships on the Grace Lutheran campus.

Faith Lutheran Church and School

Former principal and leader for the church, Mr. Frank Ahrens, remains a stabilizing presence for the congregation. A committed core of lay leaders are a continual blessing.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Davie, FL

Gloria Dei has recently experienced a pastoral transition as Rev. Tony Masinelli accepted a call to Utah. Rev. George Poulos has accepted the call to become Senior Pastor. Building on their long history in central Broward County, both church and school look forward to a hopeful future under Rev. Poulos' leadership and God's guidance.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Good Shepherd continues its unique ministry niche in central Broward County. Good Shepherd too has a history of strong lay leadership as it moves into the future.

Miramar Lutheran Church, Miramar, FL

Miramar has been blessed these past three years by the leadership of Rev. Kevin Ogle. Committing himself to this congregation; leading a renovation of the facilities; being intentional in outreach into the community; bringing the revitalization that grows from a Gospel centered outreach, Rev. Ogle has brought new energy and hope to a Lutheran presence in Miramar.

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Plantation, FL

Our Savior Lutheran is in transition. After twelve years of faithful leadership from Rev. Edwin Nicklas, Ed retired. Our Savior has been served in this interim by Rev. Alton Kirk. With an eager, focused call committee, Our Savior is nearing the point of extending a call for a new senior pastor. Our Savior School continues its fine tradition of Lutheran Christian education in the heart of the Gold Coast Circuit.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, West Hollywood, FL

Prince of Peace is a Hispanic mission served by Rev. Juan Martin. Juan's leadership of this small, but dedicated congregation continues into his retirement.

Shepherd of the Coast Lutheran Church and School, Ft Lauderdale, FL

Shepherd of the Coast is one of the few remaining viable Missouri Synod congregations in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Shepherd too is experiencing transition. When Rev. Dan Czaplewski was called to a congregation in Wisconsin two years ago, SOC was served by the interim by Rev. Dennis Glick. One year ago, seminary graduate Rev. Stephen Reynolds accepted the call to Shepherd of the Coast. (Recently married, Stephen and Rachel are going through transitions too!!!) Their joy and optimism in ministry are already bearing fruit in Fort Lauderdale.

St. Paul Lutheran Church and Pre-School, Weston, FL

St. Paul also echoes the transition theme. "10 Talent" DCE Jeremy Becker is now in his third year of Youth and Family ministry at St. Paul. The congregation has just completed a renovation and expansion of its worship space. Additional education and fellowship space is also on the drawing board. Culturally and religiously diverse Weston remains an exciting setting as Rev. Tim Hartner moves into his 25th year of Word and Sacrament ministry in South Florida.

Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Trinity has also transitioned from Rev. Tom Hackett's seasoned pastoral leadership into Vicar Jeff Carlson's ordination and installation these next weeks. Dedicated and determined under the Holy Spirit, Jeff believes Trinity's best years are ahead. Rev. Joshua Vilseint leads the third (most of any circuit in Synod) Haitian Lutheran congregation in Circuit 20.

Circuit 21 – Monroe – Miami – Dade – The Reverend William Alan Sielk

Bayshore Lutheran Church, Miami, FL

Bayshore Lutheran celebrated their 70th anniversary with a service and a meal. It was a full house with many pastors past and present in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the festivities.

Faith Lutheran Church, Hialeah, FL

Faith Lutheran Church in Hialeah has gone through many changes in the last 3 years. As a result of our dear shepherd, Pastor Mark Wessling's illness and his death in Nov. of 2014, we are in the process of calling a new bilingual pastor for our congregation. Our Pre-K -8th Grade Christian school remains a stable mission to our surrounding community.

Grace Lutheran Church, Key West, FL

In the past triennium Grace Lutheran Church and School has bid farewell to Pastor Mike Heidle and interim Pastor Dick Knapp. We thank God for their faithful and loving service. In 2014 Gary Faith was installed as sole pastor. The people of Grace are growing in their understanding that we are a mission outpost and that we best engage people by building relationships. Once people know that we care they will care about what we have to say. We believe that Jesus is up to something in Key West and that He is inviting us to join Him on His mission.

Martin Luther Chapel Church, Marathon, FL

Martin Luther Chapel has a new pastor, Pastor Anthony Mandile, and is in the process of opening a preschool.

Hospital Del Alma Lutheran Church, Homestead, FL

Hospital Del Alma is very active in Homestead and has been involved in many community activities.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tavernier, FL

Immanuel Lutheran is in the upper keys, and is growing and hosted the Lutheran Hour Speaker, Rev. Greg Seltz, at their LWML rally.

San Pablo Apostol, Miami, FL

San Pablo Apostol lost its long-time President, Carmelo Delgado. They are involved in the community and have started new bible studies using the Lutheran Hour Ministries confirmation materials.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Cutler Bay, FL

Trinity has been meeting at Pine Woods Villa Inc and has ministered to the residents there. Pastor Rivera is also the chaplain.

St Paul Lutheran Church, Miami, FL

St. Paul Lutheran hosted a mission trip to Guatemala which taught VBS in Spanish. They had the largest group of youth in years attend the high school youth gathering.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Miami, FL

Our Savior Lutheran is worshipping with those of Redeemer who have joined the congregation.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, North Miami, FL

Holy Cross has been active in the area and is growing. They have hosted District and Synod activities for the South Florida area. Pastor Bartels is the District Stewardship Chair.

Nassau Lutheran Church, Bahamas

Nassau Lutheran is using VBS in the island for outreach. Pastor Boodle has retired but is continuing on as pastor.

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Hialeah, FL

St. Andrew's is working with Pastor Orozco to have Spanish services. They have been involved with Rebecca's Garden.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Miami, FL

St. Matthew Lutheran is active in Miami. Members have been involved with Thrivent and Pastor Santana has been the President of Pine Woods Villa, Inc.

Concordia Lutheran Church, Miami, FL

The church and its school are working in the South Miami area.

Reports from Councils, Commissions and Partner Ministries

Campus Ministry

Young people throughout the Florida-Georgia District are served by our District's campus ministries. At present, these campus ministries serve most of our major college and university centers. As our campus ministries look to the future, especially through the work of the Campus Ministry Task Force established at the 2012 Florida-Georgia District Convention, we look to serve more and more students with Word and Sacrament through actively engaging with new campuses and growing our proficiency in reaching the lost on the campuses that are already being served by campus ministries.

Campus Ministry Task Force Report

The Campus Ministry Task Force, comprised of Rev. Gregory Michael (Chair, serving University of Georgia), Rev. Joshua Brown (serving Valdosta State University, Georgia), Rev. Jay Winters (serving Florida State University), and DCE Philip Kloepke (serving Florida Gulf Coast University) came up with the following recommendations to fulfill the mandate to "to propose how to strengthen the growth of campus ministry both at campuses with current LCMS ministry and to strategically plan the establishment of new ministries at campuses without any active LCMS ministry" (Resolution 2012 1.5, "To Affirm the Importance of Campus Ministry in the Life of the Church"):

Facilitating plants

- Helping congregations and district see importance of and potential for campus ministry opportunities
- Provide guide/guidance for when to start a campus ministry (When)
- Develop models for campus ministry (what type is appropriate)
- Resources for model implementation (how to)
- Provide leadership training and support including coaching and peer support

Proposed Timeline: Ready for implementation and presentation at the 2015 District Convention

Additionally, the Campus Ministry Task Force set forth a prioritized list of campus ministry planting opportunities. These priorities were: 1. Commuter Colleges - for example, Florida alone has 875,000 students attending commuter colleges. 2. Key Universities - including revitalizing ministries at UF and UCF, as well as starting new work in places like the Atlanta university cluster 3. Supporting congregations that are including campus ministry in their mission activities.

Communication

- Develop a standard system for communication between congregations and campus ministries.
- Develop a standard system of communication between campus ministries.
- Provide centralized information of what is being done on which campus (not just our district congregations, but our district's geography).

Proposed Timeline: by Fall 2014

Student leadership development Fall 2014

- Provide support for campus leadership training

- Provide guidance for how to use students in leadership roles in the congregation (recognizing that they are baptized, confirmed adults).

Proposed Timeframe: Fall 2014

Helping with transitions

- Facilitate opportunities for campus ministries to connect with high school students. Timeframe: Fall 2014
- Raise awareness for the need to facilitate opportunities for alumni and young professionals to connect Timeframe: Summer 2015 (present at convention).

Proposed Timeline: See above

Campus Ministry Update from Individual Campuses

The following campus ministry locations (presented North to South) have provided information concerning their activities over the past triennium.

The University of Georgia

University of Georgia Campus Ministry continues to seek to help students grow in, reach out with, and develop leaders for Christ's victory. Living out our baptisms together, we continue to seek to connect students to the body of Christ as we solicit names of matriculating students from Georgia congregations, reach out through orientation fairs and various outreach events on campus, participate in regional efforts, and attempt to facilitate connections between students and new congregations as they graduate. We are engaging students with Bible studies, intramurals, service projects, retreats, and meals. We continue to work with students and help them develop as leaders even as they serve as leaders among the students and on the church council and committees.

Florida State University

University Lutheran, the campus ministry at Florida State University continues to be a "Jesus-Centered Community of Scripture, Faith, and Grace" which seeks to cultivate Christian leadership for the next generations of the Church. Over the past three years, our campus ministry has sent three students on to training for professional church work at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis (2 M.Div candidates, 1 deaconess candidate). We have also discipled dozens of students from backgrounds ranging from "born and bred Lutheran" to having converted during their college careers. These students are now salt and light in their vocations as dancers, biologists, musicians, Ph.D. candidates, businessmen and women, doctors, and many other vocations. Additionally, we have begun to build a national network of Lutheran FSU alumni for the purpose of connecting current students with vocational mentorship and recent graduates with connections within the cities that they move to. We believe that such a network will help create a connectivity for students with local churches, with development opportunities for themselves, and with a greater sense of the Body of Christ. We continue to develop our ministry work to reach out to our campus community, utilizing the methodologies of missional communities and discipleship training.

The University of Florida

For the last three years Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF) has maintained annually 15 to 25 college students. Each year's Fall Semester, new students are welcomed by the whole congregation and the older students with a "Welcome Back Barbeque". The fall semester is dominated by seven-week ends of football parking where students socialize while parking cars for games (Go Gators) and raising money for ministry opportunities. Two of the last three years in the spring semester LSF students have participated in a Real Life College Faith event where high school seniors and college students spend the weekend together sharing how they maintain an active Christian life through the trials of getting a college education. Some LSF students have attended fall and/or spring retreats with other college groups in the Florida Georgia District. Varying Mission trips away from Gainesville have occurred each year. Each Sunday for both semesters the students gather after worship for a home cooked meal created by volunteers from First Lutheran (College Lunch). The College Lunch Ministry spans multiple decades at First Lutheran and both students and cooks enjoy the event tremendously, allowing for strong community development. The students are encouraged to organize midweek bible studies with the assistance of Church Staff and volunteer advisors. First Lutheran also maintains a Campus House with couches, television, Internet and desks for bible studies, socializing, and even sometimes studying.

Florida Gulf Coast University

Thrive Community Church has been in existence for almost two years now at Florida Gulf Coast University. Our first official gathering was August of 2013 where we started with six students. Those students connected the church with many other students, which enabled our discipleship process as a campus ministry. Our discipleship process created a missional community where we gather about forty-fifty students a week. By Fall of 2015, we plan on launching two missional communities on the college campus that will consist of forty students for each gathering.

Florida Atlantic University

God has been moving at St. Paul's Lutheran in Boca Raton into a better direction to think for the future at FAU in Boca Raton. Three years ago two individuals started to pray at the student union to get a picture of where the LORD would be leading them to do ministry and in what way at FAU. Since then, we have walked beside already established Bible studies on campus, and our pastor teaches those once every two months. However, every Thursday night has turned into a time of study for students from college on the St. Paul Lutheran campus, and we just finished the study of Revelation, which took us half a year! FAU is under a transition of becoming less of a commuter university and more of a dormitory university, so in our planning stages for our congregation in the next months we are looking to see how God will be calling us into this community in the years ahead. Go campus ministry!

University of Central Florida

LiveUCF is a two year old mission start on the campus of UCF, currently the second largest university in the nation. We operate as a mission plant congregation who's membership is made up of students and local 20/30s all dedicated to "Living for Christ and Loving UCF." Worship services are held in the student union on Wednesday nights with space provided by the school since LiveUCF is both church and student organization.

With a midweek worship service comes opportunities to serve at and visit congregations around the district with a special focus on lifting up high school students and connecting them to all the campus ministries our district offers.

LiveUCF seeks to continue to grow on campus as a congregation dedicated to bringing the love of Christ to UCF. LiveUCF.com

Respectfully submitted, The Campus Ministries of the Florida-Georgia District

Church Worker Family Care Commission

The following people served on the Church Worker Family Care Commission this past triennium. Rick Armstrong, Kurt Bickel, Edna Busch, Megan Miessler, Tim Hartner, Doug Kalleson and Jen Marts (recently moved out of the District). The vision that has guided our work grew out of the District's "Leadership" emphasis:

"Church workers and their families are living healthy, Christ centered lives."

Within that vision, we have focused on these two goals:

"Church workers are taking steps toward personal wellness through spiritual, physical and emotional self-care."

"A growing number of church workers have become aware of the issues in their lives and have engaged in experiences that promote healthy, Christ centered living."

Toward that end, our efforts and energies have concentrated on the following:

1. We contracted Rev. Billy Brath to complete a pilot group for "Staff Wellness Challenge" throughout the district. Using this information, the Commission chose to adjust the plan for the Wellness Challenge throughout the district by creating a Wellness Hub online that is user friendly.
 2. At the 2014 President's Convocation, the Commission launched the Wellness Hub. This project revamped the Wellness page on the district website to be interactive and promote wellness for church workers. At the convocation, church workers engaged the hub through touch screen computers that were made available. CWFCC members also worked with the convocation to create a Renewal Mall which promoted Wellness, including the opportunity to give blood on site.
 3. Promotion of the Hub - The CWFCC is working to set up a regular blog post that will be pushed to church workers in order to encourage healthy living and build up the Wellness Hub as a resource in the District.
-

Constitution Committee

Dear Convention Delegates, our Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In order for a congregation to enter the fellowship of the Lutheran Church-Missouri and the Florida-Georgia District of the Synod, they must submit their Constitution and Bylaws to the FL-GA District Constitution Committee for their guidance and approval for these documents. The same process follows if a congregation of the FL-GA District wishes to amend or revise their current documents. The Constitution Committee reviews the documents, and when they are consistent with the Constitutions of the LC-MS and the FL-GA District they must then be approved by the FL-GA District Board of Directors.

The FL-GA District Constitution Committee consists of the elected Secretary of the FL-GA District, Pastor Jay Winters of Tallahassee, FL, and two members appointed by the District President. The two appointed members this Triennium are Pr. Pat F. A. O'Brien, Clearwater, FL, and Dr. Erich H. Heintzen, St. Petersburg, FL, who serves as Chairperson. It is interesting to note that all three of these men have served as District Secretary in the past.

During the past Triennium, the Committee has received, and after consultations with the congregational committees, approved and sent on to the district Board of Directors 32 Constitutions and Bylaws submitted by 30 congregations.

(There is a discrepancy in the number of actual documents and the number of congregations submitting because one congregation revised their documents three times this Triennium!) Our committee is currently considering Constitutions and Bylaws submitted to us by three congregations.

It is our duty and delight to serve the congregations of our beloved FL-GA District in this ministry, and Him who is the Head of the Church, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted by The FL-GA District Constitution Committee

Communications/Lutheran Life

Lutheran LIFE – the Florida-Georgia newsmagazine – is designed to inform district church and school members of the activities, personalities, and ministries of our two states as well as of the larger church body. *Lutheran LIFE* also shares information about the resources and support offered to churches and schools by the District and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. During the past six years, *Lutheran LIFE* has evolved to a format of a 32-page full color newsmagazine that is produced six times a year to be mailed as a hard copy to more than 12,000 readers within the District as well as Lutheran leaders across the country. *Lutheran LIFE* is also published as an electronic magazine available on the Florida-Georgia website and sent via email to subscribers. Congregations within the Florida-Georgia District are encouraged to enroll their memberships in the every-member-mailing program, provided at no cost.

John List/ Florida-Georgia District Communications Director

Eileen Bishop/Editor, *Lutheran LIFE*

Lutheran LIFE, 971 SW Pepperridge Terrace, Boca Raton, FL 33486 ; LutheranLife@aol.com

District Stewardship Council

District Stewardship Advisory Council (DSAC), whose purpose it is to assist, encourage and promote God-pleasing stewardship in congregations of this District, consisted of the following members for all or part of this triennium: The Rev. Dennis Bartels, chairman, The Rev. Jeff Jordon, Mr. Dennis Cerny, The Rev. John Hirst, The Rev. Ed Trinklein, Ms. Magda McKay, Mr. Tony Ramiz, The Rev. Milian Weerts, and The Rev. Larry Schaefer. Advisory members were President Greg Walton, Mr. John Elliott, Mr. Dan Reichard, and Mrs. Kathy Keene. Throughout the triennium the DSAC met either at the District Office in Orlando or by teleconference to monitor the support of District/Synod by congregations.

The emphasis of the Council over the triennium was to encourage congregation leaders to explore, discover and embrace opportunities that manifest themselves in our lives for works of service to the Lord and to the people He places in our paths. A survey was conducted which revealed that only 40% of the congregations in our District engage in an annual Stewardship program or emphasis.

We encourage congregations to utilize the “Consecrated Stewards” program developed by Lutheran Church Extension Fund. In February, 2014, fourteen individuals were trained as leaders. Since then, fourteen congregations have participated and were greatly blessed as each showed an increase in giving of **19% or more**. New ideas and strategies are being explored by the Council. Additionally, a Stewardship Summit will be held in Orlando, August 14-15, 2015. We are excited about the opportunities that the Lord is placing before us and look forward to following His lead.

Significant Statistics (Based on 205 Congregations)

- Congregation Support to the District and Synod
 - 2013 70 Pledges Received
 - 2014 88 Pledges Received
 - 2015 80 Pledges Received
- Pledges of 10% or Greater
 - 2013 10
 - 2014 8
 - 2015 7

Encouragements to Every Congregation

- Increase Support to the District and Synod by 1% each year toward a goal of 10% or more.
- Appoint and train for service a standing Stewardship Committee.
- Conduct an annual campaign which includes stewardship education and member commitments.
- Designate times during the year for training in stewardship of time, talent and service.

Lutheran Counseling Services

Vision Statement: ***Sharing God's Healing and Abundant Grace in Our Community!***

Mission Statement: ***Motivated by the grace of God, LCS provides faith-based professional counseling, mental health education and consultation for individuals, families and communities seeking growth and renewal.***

Twenty-five years has brought change, growth and Sharing God's Abundant Grace through Lutheran Counseling Services in Winter Park, FL. We began with our founder Rev. Dr. Mel Jacob serving as an outreach arm of the Lutheran community in the Orlando area and now we are a staff of 8 therapists, 2 administration personnel serving an average of 2800+ clients per year. Rev. Dr. Rick Armstrong, LMFT has been our Executive Director for the past 3 years.

The past three years at LCS has seen:

We now have 9 locations in Central Florida - St. Luke Lutheran, Oviedo; Spirit of Joy Lutheran, Waterford; Prince of Peace Lutheran, Curry Ford; Asbury UMC, Maitland; Woodlands Lutheran, Montverde; Holy Cross Lutheran, Lake Mary; Trinity and Hope Lutheran, Villages as well as our main office in Winter Park.

Successfully Aging in Winter Park - An Older Adult Outreach Program promoting Aging in Place. In the past 5 years of this program we have had counselors at two Older Adult facilities owned by Winter Park Housing Authority. Our counselors have provided groups and individual mental health services for the residents. This past Christmas season we also led a Food Drive to restock their Food Bank for residents.

Crisis/Disaster Response – Over the years we have provided and coordinated Spiritual/Emotional Care for survivors and care-givers following natural disasters in the state of Florida and throughout the country. We have provided one-on-one response as well as training, consultations and respite retreats following these catastrophic events. We have also responded to critical incidents and crisis situations in Newtown, CT; NYC; Minot, ND; Virginia, Oklahoma, Boston and others recovering from incidents and tragedies in schools, congregations and communities.

Candidate for Ministry Evaluation We are regularly involved in Candidate for Ministry Evaluation processes for the United Methodist Church, LCMS OIM, ELCA and many others.

School Social Work Ministry – We are completing year three of our ministry to Lutheran Schools providing services for students, families, teachers, staff and administrators in four schools in the Central Florida area.

Ministerial Assistance Program – We have contracts with the FL/GA District, Southern District, FL-Bahamas Synod and the LCMS OIM to provide Church Worker MAP service through an 800 number or Skype, as well as congregational/organizational consultations and coaching, classes, retreats, workshops, and more.

Since its inception in LCS has provided a wide range of confidential professional counseling and consultation services to thousands of Florida residents regardless of race, creed, sex, religion, or national origin. Our qualified professional staff offers a variety of mental health services to those who reach out for assistance. While these services are open to everyone regardless of financial status, a person's income, family size, health resources and special circumstances determine fees. We have special funds available to help with those seeking help in various situations including Older Adults, Families, Veterans, Lower Economic

situations and more. Our individual donors as well as supporting congregations and grants help to supply the financial means for our work. With over 90% receiving subsidized care, the counseling service truly seeks to fulfill its mission of outreach to the entire community.

LCS is an accredited Service Center of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and an Institutional Member of AAPC. It is a Recognized Service Organization/Affiliated Social Ministry Organization in the LCMS and ELCA.

LCS is a Florida not-for-profit corporation, tax-exempt under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It operates under its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. A board of volunteer directors oversees the operation of LCS.

Additional information is available upon request from Rev. Dr. Rick Armstrong (407) 644-4692 or visit our web site at: www.LcsFL.com.

Lutheran Haven Retirement Center

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior from His ministry in Oviedo, Florida. Lutheran Haven enjoys its 67th year of serving retired Lutheran church workers and other faithful Lutheran brothers and sisters.

The Haven is blessed with capable and involved trustees, with the most recent class of trustees comprised of:

Susan Hanas, Chair & Duda Family Representative
David Vorpapel, Vice President & Member-at-Large
Rev. George Hansell, Secretary & SELC Central Circuit Representative
F.S. Duda, Treasurer & St. Luke's Lutheran Church Representative
Dr. Carl Krueger, SELC District President
Rev. Luther Bajus, SELC Western Circuit Representative
Rev. James Douthwaite, SELC Eastern Circuit Representative
Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael, FL-GA District Representative
Rev. Wally Vinovskis, SELC District Member-at-Large
Ms. Ardyne Kirn, SELC District Member-at-Large

Rev. Wally Arp, Senior Pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church & SELC Southern Circuit Representative

During the past three years, the Trustees have updated the Long Range Plan for the community, and have implemented several strategic initiatives, which are detailed below:

Replacement of oldest housing: The Trustees have evaluated the options available for replacement housing through an exhaustive series of internal and external market studies. At the close of 2014, the Trustees voted to move ahead with the development of a building housing 46 new congregate style apartment homes. This project is in the schematic design and pre-marketing stages, and is anticipated to open in early 2017.

Development of additional amenities: Concurrent with the plans for the new apartment homes, a common building of approximately 10,000 square feet is planned. This building will house dining facilities, a medical clinic, beauty shop and spa, and library-café. Also planned are renovations for the Fellowship Hall to include a fitness center and additional arts & education space.

Development of a memory care facility: With the need for the care of individuals with varying dementias anticipated to grow exponentially, the Haven is re-purposing the former child care center into a memory care assisted living program for 26 individuals.

Plan to increase nursing home beds: For the first time in over a decade, the State of Florida has provided an opportunity to increase nursing home bed capacity. Lutheran Haven applied for 14 additional beds, in a competitive process, and was awarded approval for all of the requested beds.

Plan to improve in/outpatient therapy space: As part of the development of new nursing home bed capacity, the therapy area will be increased and improved. This will provide the opportunity to serve not only individuals who are admitted for short-term rehabilitation, but also will serve individuals who require outpatient therapy.

Improving our technology infrastructure and capabilities have been an ongoing priority, given the many aspects of the Haven that touch HIPAA protected information. We have improved the functionality of the Haven website, enabling both a Trustee and resident portal for protected information.

Residents of the Haven continue to be engaged and serve in both the Haven community, and greater community as well. The majority of residents are members of the Haven Auxiliary, which exists to improve the quality of life of those in our assisted living and nursing home programs. The Auxiliary raises funds through twice annual flea markets, and during the past year, raised over \$52,000 for the nursing home and assisted living resident areas.

Our resident volunteers continue to serve in a variety of other capacities as well, including at St. Luke's Lutheran School, visitation with our shut-in nursing home and assisted living residents, volunteering at our information desk, helping with special activities and many, many more.

Lutheran Haven has been blessed in so many different ways. We see God's hand daily at work in the community. We are delighted to be able to share our blessings and our tithes. This year we invited another LCMS Recognized Service Organization—Rebecca's Garden of Hope—which provides Christ-centered tutoring and mentoring for underprivileged children, to use an office here at the Haven.

We rejoice because

Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. Isaiah 46:4

We thank God for His sustaining hand at work in the Lutheran Haven community.

In His Service, Linda Kirk, Chief Executive Officer

Note: Lutheran Haven Retirement Center, located in Oviedo, FL, is a ministry of the Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELC) a District of the LCMS. We have a close working relationship with Lutheran Haven, and hold a seat on the Haven's Board of Trustees.

Luther Institute – Southeast Asia

At the last convention of the Florida-Georgia District in 2012, delegates unanimously endorsed the work of the Luther Institute - Southeast Asia (LISA). As its Executive Director from January, 2011 to February 1, 2015, I thank you for that powerful vote of encouragement. It is my privilege to submit this report on the wonderful progress this ministry has enjoyed under the Lord's abundant blessings and the prayers, support, and participation of His people. I am also happy to announce that the Rev. Dr. Jacob A. O. Preus, III, has begun his service as the new Executive Director. Dr. Preus brings wide experience as the Academic Dean at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and the president of Concordia University, Irvine, California to this position and will provide excellent leadership to help LISA move forward in its mission.

We Give Thanks for the generous support of the Florida-Georgia District's Board of Directors, when they made a \$25,000 grant from the sale of the former District office building to assist LISA's ministry. Additionally, many individuals, some congregations and societies, some conferences and several foundations have contributed to our work. The prayers and encouragement have been invaluable. We are grateful to District pastors who have either taught for us or prepared a course: the Rev. Dr. Jeff Moore (prepared the Preaching course); the Rev. Gregory Michael taught the New Testament Survey course to one of our cohorts, and the Rev. Andrew Fields the course on Christian Worship. LISA depends upon the voluntary service of professors, pastors, and educators to provide the courses we do.

The Progress of the LISA program during the past four years (2011-2015, our second round of courses):

National pastors, missionaries, and LISA leaders met in February 2011 to establish a series of Ministerial Formation Outcomes to guide the development of the program. They are in three categories: Personal Qualities; Knowledge; and Ministerial Skills.

A twenty course, standardized four year curriculum that is Christ-centered, Biblically and Confessionally sound, with a missionary orientation has been developed.

A modular approach to our courses was designed. This enables us to use our standardized curriculum in different settings: weekly, bi-weekly, or seminar.

The program has grown to serve over 100 students from more than seven different ethnic groups in four different countries.

We have introduced the use of national teachers in Thailand and Cambodia for many of our courses. They are equipped for these roles through regular Teacher Training meetings. Without veteran pastors in the other cohorts, we must rely on expatriate pastors and professors to teach, utilizing interpreters.

During the past four years, we have seen greater leadership being exercised by the national pastors and teachers. Country or ethnic coordinators oversee the administration of the program in the different areas. As an example, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cambodia has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with LISA, whereby it will provide the administrative leadership for LISA in their country in the coming cycle of classes. LISA will provide curricular support. The ELCC envisions the development of a Lutheran Christian college and has registered the "Concordia Theological Institute" with the Cambodian government. Its leaders have begun "pre-LISA" classes among the Jirai people in the Ratanakkiri area, a 12 hour drive from Phnom Penh, with about 20 people participating (not included in our number of students above).

Opportunities and Challenges:

The LISA Board of Directors has adopted a constitution and bylaws and intends to incorporate as a 501 (c) 3 corporation in the State of Arizona. This will give the LISA ministry a more formal, legal structure than it currently has. A key component of the new constitution is a Board of Advisors of national leaders and workers in Southeast Asia, which the LISA Board is obligated to heed to insure that our programs are sensitive and responsive to the churches, culture and context of Southeast Asia. (I might note that currently representatives from the Thai and Cambodian churches are on the board, but as the ministry expands to other countries, this new approach will guarantee that the input of the various national leaders is honored.)

This new structure also envisions a partnership approach to support and governance. Through the commitment of significant financial support and involvement by partners such as congregations, circuits, districts and foundations, the design is to insure an adequate, consistent revenue stream and leadership for the viability of our program of missional theological education.

A major concern that the LISA Board is committed to address in collaboration with the national leaders is a program of "in service" training with supervision and mentoring. This means devising a program of field education, guided learning--a type of vicarage, to use our terminology. Working with young churches on the mission front, without experienced Lutheran pastors, deaconesses, and educators, means developing a way for helping our students learn how to put their theology into practice. Our goal is that our students' ministerial practice is truly evangelical and indigenous, true to the Word and suited to its context.

Your ongoing prayers and support are coveted. Through the combined efforts of many, the work in Southeast Asia can move forward. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at gmjrflga@aol.com; Dr. Preus at jacob.preus@gmail.com; or the LISA's chairman of the Board, the Rev. Dr. Jeff Ehlers at j.ehlers@yahoo.com. (Rev. Ehlers served as pastor at Christ Lutheran, East Point, GA before serving as a missionary to Thailand, 1993-2000.) We all stand ready to respond to your questions or discuss ways in which you can be involved.

Respectfully and gratefully submitted by Rev. Dr. Gerhard C. Michael, Jr.

Lutheran Services Florida

Lutheran Services Florida (LSF) has been bringing God's healing, hope and help to people in need in the name of Jesus Christ for the past 33 years. This ministry is jointly owned and governed by the FL/GA District of the LCMS and the Florida/Bahamas Synod of the ELCA. With more than one hundred programs LSF served 208,855 people in Florida. Many of these people pray daily for a better life, and with the help and support of Lutherans across Florida, we are privileged to be God's instruments in providing answers to those prayers daily.

This number represents tremendous growth over the past three years allowing us to serve more people than ever before and to have more impact on the communities we serve. LSF has become the largest faith-based social service agency in Florida and one of the largest Lutheran social service agencies in the nation.

For 2014-15, LSF added Head Start and Early Head Start programs in Palm Beach County and Duval County to our current programs in Pinellas County, our Early Head Start Family Child Care Homes in Hillsborough County and our long-running PEPPi Head Start Child Development Center in Belle Glade. Each day these programs make a measurable difference in the lives of 6000 children from low-income families.

LSF's Sellow Excel Charter School in Belle Glade is in its second year with a student population of 120. We have recently added three more schools to our charter family to enhance the support services in Belle Glade. These schools also operate as a resource for some of the children living in our foster care homes, youth shelters, and other ministries that deal with children who come to us as victims of unspeakable abuse and neglect.

Lutheran Services Florida designs each ministry to alleviate the suffering today while giving each individual the tools he or she needs to work toward a future that is filled with promise and hope.

These numbers are impressive, but when you boil it all down it is about meeting the needs and answering the prayers of one child - bringing relief to one family at a time - helping an individual through the horrors of addiction one day at a time. Because of LSF people everywhere understand that Lutherans are about Love, Service, and Faith as we follow the example of the Good Samaritan and obey our Lord's command to "Go, and do likewise" (Luke 10:37b)

Lutheran Services of Georgia

Lutheran Services of Georgia (LSG) was founded in Atlanta in 1981 in response to community concerns. LSG's first two programs were Refugee Resettlement and Adoption in Atlanta. Since then LSG has assisted more than 100,000 individuals, developed a reputation for excellence in its social service work and expanded its portfolio of program platforms to include; immigration services, foster care services for children with disabilities, host home services for adults with disabilities, behavioral health counseling and therapy, and family intervention services in an effort to prevent child abuse in all its forms, and strengthen the family system. Disaster Response continues to be a hallmark LSG program and serves as the need presents itself regionally and locally.

The Mission of Lutheran Services of Georgia (LSG) is to provide services that enhance the stability, wellness, health, and safety of individuals and families in Georgia. Our goals are to; 1) provide high quality services and programs that meet the needs of individuals and families; 2) create awareness of our name and mission throughout Georgia in order to expand our service delivery area; 3) Increase revenue by at least 3% annually in order to carry out our mission; and 4) create and maintain organizational management protocols that allow us to function in the most efficient and effective manner. Each goal corresponds to strategic Objectives and Strategies as outlined in the 2014-2016 Strategic Plan.

OUR SERVICES

Adoptions Services finds stable, compassionate, and permanent homes for children.

Behavioral Health Services offers an array of outpatient mental health and substance abuse counseling services to children, adolescents, adults, and seniors.

Disaster Response Services works for the long-term recovery of areas afflicted by natural disasters by partnering with Lutheran Disaster Response. LSG also equips congregations to respond to disasters and participate in recovery efforts.

FACES (Facilitating Advocacy, Care, Education, and Shelter) helps individuals with developmental, physical, and intellectual disabilities obtain the support that they need in host home environments to thrive in their communities.

Family intervention Services (FIS) offers an array of services to at-risk children and families that build, maintain, and strengthen family relationships.

Immigration Services offers low-cost immigration legal services to refugees resettled through LSG and others in the community in need of assistance.

Refugee Services resettles hundreds of refugees every year, helping them to make a smooth transition to life in the U.S., to achieve economic self-sufficiency, and to become socially integrated into their new communities.

Specialized Foster Care Services assists the state of Georgia in placing at-risk children and children with special needs into quality foster care homes.

Transitional Foster Care Services provides short-term, transitional foster homes for unaccompanied children while they wait to be reunited with their family or guardians in the U.S.

NUMBERS SERVED

LSG touched the lives of 4,629 individuals during our 2013-2014 Fiscal Year. Highlights of our program services were:

38 Adoptions were finalized

21 Individuals attended more than 200 counseling session with our Behavioral Health professionals

127 Host Homes provided services to 90 children and adults with Developmental Disabilities

198 families learned how to parent effectively and thereby keep their children and families intact

142 children from 68 family systems received Supervised Visitation services keeping children safe from harm while parents travelled through counseling to retain their parenting rights.

104 children found safety and security in appropriate foster care homes with loving family systems.

BRIDGESPAN – LEADING FOR IMPACT GRANT RECIPIENT

The Bridgespan Group is a nonprofit advisor and resource for mission-driven organizations. In January, 2014 LSG became an award recipient of the Bridgespan Group *Leading For Impact* Program. This renowned program is designed to strengthen nonprofit leadership teams, build strategic decision-making capacity, and enhance team dynamics through a strategic management curriculum. LSG leadership is in its second year of leadership training and is implementing statewide the guiding principles and strategies learned to build and engage their leadership teams and strengthen decision making within the organization.

FINANCIAL POSITION:

LSG ended fiscal year 2014 with positive net revenue for the sixth consecutive year. Total revenue generated was \$ 13,235,619 with an increase in net assets of \$148,983. Strategies to diversify income streams through Private Foundation and Individual donations without decreasing Public funding continues to show positive results.

LSG remain faith-filled in its dedication to serving those most in need in Georgia. The prayerful discernment and support of congregations in the Florida-Georgia District is integral to the success of LSG professional Case Managers, Directors and Leadership. The LSG Board of Directors remains strong in their desire to lead the mission and cause of Social Service Ministry in Georgia.

Lutheran Social Services of North Florida

Lutheran Social Services of North Florida's mission is to develop, fund, implement, and administer programs to address the unmet social service needs of the low-income residents in our community.

Lutheran Social Services of North Florida, Inc (LSSNF) was established in 1989 as a 501(c)(3) human services organization serving the counties of north Florida. The **InnBetween Transitional Housing** program was created in 1994 and since then has served 197 families. The program allows families with children experiencing homelessness to live in a safe, secure, furnished home for up to two years, paying a very low program fee which, at the end of the two years, is returned to the family. This unique asset building component of our program allows the families to, upon leaving our program, provide first/last month rent, utility down payment, etc. and obtain permanent, secure housing. Our program is a proven model to segue a family out of dire homelessness to a real and secure home and future. According to the Institute for Children, Poverty, & Homelessness (2013), research on transitional housing programs has shown that families exhibit greater housing stability and higher employment rates at exit from transitional housing programs like the InnBetween Transitional Housing program relative to other homelessness programs.

In 2014, the InnBetween program was augmented by adding a new program called **Success Forward: Advocates for Families**. Success Forward is a mentoring program under the direction of a social worker which uses volunteers based on the Guardian ad Litem program. This program will ensure that all members of the InnBetween client families receive the attention and care they require to ensure their success in becoming self-sufficient upon graduation from the InnBetween program.

In 1996, LSSNF purchased a commercial laundry facility and remodeled it into **The French Quarter**, a ten unit apartment complex which provides permanent, supportive housing to formerly homeless handicapped individuals. This facility and program houses special needs clients on an ongoing, affordable basis. These apartments give these previously homeless individuals a decent, clean, managed place to call home.

In 2007, the **Computer Refurbishing and Technical Assistance** program was established. The program refurbishes computers donated by the community for distribution to low to extremely low-income individuals, families, persons with disabilities, and human service agencies in Tallahassee and the North Florida area. This access to technology helps them bridge the "digital divide". Through the donation of

electronic resources, their high quality refurbishment and a training course, families, children, and disabled individuals, along with other charitable agencies can become fully participatory in our electronic information era. CRTA also works with local universities to provide internship experience and hands-on training for students with various information technology projects. Any materials not used in the program are environmentally and responsibly recycled.

Respectfully Submitted, William B. Stone, Executive Director

Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida

Feed the hungry. Comfort the afflicted. Welcome the stranger.

This is what God calls us to do. And this is what we've been doing at Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida since 1979. That when the agency was founded by a consortium of Jacksonville-area Lutheran congregations and community leaders to address emerging needs in the community. Thirty-five years later, we're still working to fill Northeast Florida's unmet needs and live out our mission: motivated and guided by the compassion of Christ, we serve and care for people in need.

Feeding the hungry

Our **Nourishment Network** was the first of LSS's programs, and we returned to that original name in 2014 to describe our hunger and nutrition programs. After nearly 35 years operating the food bank of Northeast Florida, which supplied food to the majority of the region's food pantries, Nourishment Network has redirected its efforts to target gaps in service and specific underserved populations. Specifically, Nourishment Network now encompasses:

- Health Begins Before Birth (HB3), which reduces infant mortality by providing food, education and support to high-risk expectant mothers
- Backpack, which addresses childhood hunger by providing bags of food for school children who receive free or reduced-fee lunches during the school week
- Serving Our Seniors, which takes fresh produce and other food items to senior housing buildings for direct distribution
- LSS Community Food Pantry, which provides bags of food to 200 families a month at our Philips Highway location

Comforting the afflicted

We provide vital services to two populations who are often underserved by society: those living with HIV/AIDS, and those who are unable to appropriately manage their income due to age, addiction, mental illness, or developmental disability. Our **AIDS Care and Education** program serves some 1,000 people each year, providing medical case management, referrals to needed services, support groups, and more. Our **representative payee** program manages the finances of approximately 900 clients a year, ensuring that their rent, utilities and health care expenses are paid to prevent evictions, unsafe living conditions, and lapses in medical care for chronic conditions.

Welcoming the stranger

Since 1980, LSS-Jax has been supporting refugees who resettle in Jacksonville after having fled their home countries due to persecution and violence. The majority of our refugee clients are sent to

Jacksonville through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), a national organization supported by the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, which works in conjunction with the U.S. State Department and the United Nations. Each year, LSS-Jax works with approximately 1,500 refugees from countries all around the world, helping them through their initial resettlement period as well as connecting them with employment, supporting refugee children in the public schools, and providing intensive case management for people with complex issues.

LSS-Jax is able to do all this Christ-centered work thanks to the support of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and Jacksonville-area LC-MS congregations and members. We are always happy to come speak with congregational groups about our shared ministry. If you would like to schedule a presentation, please contact Jennifer Arnold at jarnold@lssjax.org or 904-730-8266.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

The LWML Florida-Georgia District held their 34th Biennial Convention September 26-28, 2014, in Jacksonville, FL. Our theme was **"PLANT SEEDS & SHARE THE JOY"** which was taken from Psalm 126:6, *"He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him."* For three days the 339 attendees participated in Servant Events, Gifts from the Heart, Special Interests Luncheons, a Garden Party Banquet and of course elections and convention business. This convention ended the 2012-2014 biennium as well as kicked off the new biennium for 2014-2016.

During the 2012-2014 biennium the women of the LWML Florida-Georgia District:

- Held an ingathering of "Gifts from the Heart" for the Women's Resource Center of Jacksonville.
- Held a walk for Mission Grants at the 2014 District Convention.
- Paid out \$74,000.00 in Mission Grants.
- Gave \$37,000.00 in Scholarships to Seminarians and other Church Workers.
- Contributed \$48,000.00 toward the national LWML MITE goal of \$1.8 million dollars.
- Sponsored a District Mission Trip.
- Had 20 delegates and 2 Young Women Representatives attend the LWML Convention in Pittsburgh, PA in June 2013

The LWML Florida-Georgia District has 20 active zones with 188 active societies.

- Zones and societies participate in rallies and local meetings as well as have in-gatherings, projects and events to benefit LWML and its goals.
- Our members are active in LWML Gift Planning, Thrivent, LCEF and Lutheran Hour Ministries.
- LWML members are active within their congregations, serving wherever need in many and varying capacities.

Our future is the young women of our societies, zones and district.

- To that end, the LWML Florida-Georgia District has an active program for our young women.
- The "Young Women's Representative" program helps women from ages 21 to 35 become active and lifelong members of LWML.
- Two of these women will represent our district at the 2015 LWML Convention in Des Moines, IA on June 25-28, 2015.

Looking ahead:

- The 2014-2016 biennium will fund \$71,000.00 in Mission Grants and \$30,000.00 in Scholarships.

-
- Attending the LWML Des Moines Convention, June 25-28, 2015, will be the District President, 20 delegates, 2 Young Women Representatives and our Junior Pastoral Counselor.
 - Our District Retreat will be held September 25-27, 2015 at the Sirata Resort in St. Pete Beach, FL. Our retreat leader will be Donna Pyle, a renowned author of books and Bible Studies.

Did you know that the LWML mission is focused on helping **every** woman of the LCMS recognize her gifts and to help her use those gifts to build God's Kingdom? This is our mission. This is our goal.

It is with great pride and pleasure that I serve as president for the LWML Florida-Georgia District. It is with that same pride and pleasure that the women of LWML serve the Florida-Georgia District and the LCMS.

Respectfully Submitted by Bunnie Koelsch, President, LWML Florida-Georgia District

Lutheran World Relief

Since 1945, Lutherans in America have partnered with one another for the sake of God's mission to the world through Lutheran World Relief. Headquartered in Baltimore today, LWR is aiming to help "end poverty, injustice and human suffering" in our world. At the same time, we are providing an opportunity for Lutherans in our land of abundance to live out their faith in Jesus Christ. Like Martin Luther, we know that while God does not, our neighbors who clearly need our good works.

Working together in 2013 with Lutherans like you through LWR, we reached 7,759,262 people in 35 countries through 185 projects. Lutherans from all over our country, in their churches and homes, lovingly fashioned some 485,000 quilts, and children in our Sunday schools, day schools, and youth groups helped to put together a grand total of just as many personal care and schools kits. 34% of our annual budget of \$45 million also came from individuals and congregations that saw fit to give us their generous support.

At the 2012 Florida-Georgia Convention, Mr. Bill Lapp challenged the District to participate in the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. He told the delegates that malaria is an insidious disease, attacking the most vulnerable people—children under five years of age and pregnant women, but that it is both preventable and curable when early treatment is applied. At this convention, therefore, LWR wishes to express heartfelt thanks to all congregations, schools, church groups and societies, as well as individuals, who supported LMI. The effort has been successful not only because it has helped reduce the annual deaths from malaria in Africa since the year 2000 by 25%, but also because it has enabled so many people of all ages to put their faith in Jesus Christ into action.

When Typhoon Hyian, in the Fall of 2013, struck the Philippine Islands, taking thousands of lives and leaving many more people without shelter or the basic necessities of life, LWR was on the ground immediately through our field office in that country, coordinating our relief efforts through cash-for-work programs, providing water-filtration units and shelter repair kits, and guiding the distribution of thousands of quilts and kits. We are especially grateful for friends and supporters of LWR in the Florida-Georgia region who responded with special gifts and contributions, all of which helped to undergird these same relief efforts.

In addition to "relief," LWR gives priority to development work. We focus our attention and resources on small, local farmers in particular in order to help them find ways to work their own way out of the

impoverished conditions in which they live from day to day. As a result teaching them better ways to raise and to market their cash crops, their incomes climb, and in due time, they and their families reach the point of self-sufficiency. LWR's working "theory of change" involves the transformation of the lives not only of such people, but of Lutherans here at home, who, by assisting us with our efforts in this regard, come to a better understanding of the purpose in life that God has given them through their baptisms into Christ Jesus

LWR seeks to make the best use of every dollar that Lutherans entrust to us. Stewardship is in fact one of our core values, and we purposely keep our overhead as low as possible. It's one of the reasons that Consumer Reports in 2014 rated us as the number one relief and development non-profit organization in the U.S.

Under the strong leadership of our new President and CEO, Daniel Speckhard, LWR is moving forward with the hope of expanding its capacities as we work in partnership with Lutherans in America at all levels of the church's life. We know that have been very blessed by relationships we already have with congregations, schools, and individuals from this District of the LCMS, and it is for this reason that in humble gratitude we look forward to opportunities to develop even more of these in the coming triennium.

Respectfully Submitted by Dr. Jon Diefenthaler, Church-Relations Advisor

Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism

Burning Bush Ministries/Central Florida Branch responded to the increasing worldwide persecution of Christians by conducting a "Prayer March for Persecuted Christians" at Lake Eola Park, Orlando, on May 17, 2014. The march concluded at Trinity Lutheran Church and involved approximately 200 people, including international speakers representing countries where Christians are persecuted. Another prayer march is scheduled for May 16, 2015, and will include an emphasis on persecuted Jews.

Continuing in the effort of doing missions while at the same time fundraising for missions the Books for Missions project grew to over 70,000 books collected to be sold on Amazon and shipped with Yeshuah Gospel tracts out of our location in Winter Haven, FL. The project in 2014 has grown into a non-profit called Support for Missions, Inc which had 1.4 million in gross sales on Amazon serving over 50,000 people distributing thousands of Yeshuah Gospel tracts while raising over 100K for missions.

Growth continues as we work hard at investing in self-sustaining mission models to help our future missionaries have the financial stability it will take to plant into Jewish concentrated areas as our strategic direction is lead by this simple Pauline application: "**Funding, Facilitating, & Participating** in Missions; **1st** to the **Jew** & **then** to the **Gentile** [Rom 1:16]." The Central Florida Branch also conducted sermons and teaching opportunities which explained the sharp contrast between orthodox Islam with Christianity, and conveyed the reality that Islam is a threatening opportunity for Gospel outreach.

Mission: Haiti

Reaching out with the love of Christ

MISSION: HAITI has been blessed to work beside both Lutheran church bodies in Haiti, bringing mission teams and assisting with projects, providing medical care, theological educators, orphanage support, microloan funding, skill training and special projects.

Medical clinics: Over the last three years, there have been eleven medical mission teams serving over 10,000 patients. Each team connects with a local church that is responsible for sharing the Gospel and spiritual care for those attending the clinic. Clinics provide medical care, hygiene, infant, expectant and nursing mother education. Teams also provide parasite, skin condition medicine, vitamins and nutritional supplements for children. Clothing and shoes are given to those in need at medical clinics. Medical clinics also employ 6-10 local doctors, nurses and support personnel.

Mission teams: Members from churches in Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, Texas, and California have provided Bible school for over 5,000 children, worked at the orphanage, started a garden, worked with children and adults in carpentry and building projects, led adult Bible studies and held workshops on practical topics. Lutheran pastors and educators have given classes in theological education to perspective Haitian pastors, elders and teachers. Individuals with special expertise have given workshops and individual training in areas of construction, carpentry, technology, and business.

Jubilee: As recently as 2012 even the local police would not enter this terrible slum and Voodoo stronghold because of the Ra Ra (Voodoo) gangs. Mission: Haiti was the first team to work in Jubilee, bringing in VBS, reading glasses and medical teams. A special gift in 2014 provided for the building of a church, making a significant impact in the community. The church doubles as a primary school, a sewing school and a community center. Microloans have provided many families an opportunity to support their families by their own efforts. Presently we are working with several partners to build low cost (\$2,000. each) disaster resistant homes in Jubilee. Land has been donated by the city of Gonaives to build and leaders in several construction disciplines are donating their time and energy to develop this project. Haitian workers will be trained to build these, providing livelihoods for Haitian families.

Jean-Louis: A small rural community in northern Haiti very much wanted to support themselves. They had land and knew how to farm but could only grow crops in rainy season. A memorial gift provided a pump, generator, pipes and supplies for this village to irrigate several acres of land to grow beans, corn, melons, eggplant, bananas, plantains, calilou, peppers, tomatoes and more. The crops both feed the village and are taken to market. Another gift in 2015 built a church in this community that will also be used as a school. The structure that the church replaced was made of pole, tarp and palm leaf and could not be used if it rained. This community can now worship and have school whatever the weather.

Orphans: We partner with the Lutheran church of Haiti to support two orphanages, one for boys and one for girls. The LCH pays the salaries of the staff and Mission: Haiti provides nutritional support and helps with the maintenance, health care and education of the children. There are presently 15 girls and 19 boys at the facilities. Without the orphanage these children would be living on the streets, begging, or stealing, or worse, to eat. One twelve year old girl was found living in the cemetery near the graves of her parents. She had been there for three years, being abused and just barely surviving. She now eats three meals a day and is attending school for the first time in her life. Many of these precious ones would not be alive without the orphanage. Today, they have a safe place to live, three meals a day and they are going to school and church, learning about the God who created them and loves them.

Microloans: More than fifty microloans have been given to individuals in Gonaives, Jubilee, Jean-Louis, Port-au-Prince and Bassin-Mayen. Administered by a Haitian committee, the loans of \$50-\$100 give a family an opportunity to support themselves. Businesses include; food and charcoal sales, housewares sales, mattress refurbishing, peanut butter making, coffee processing, a hot dog cart, snack food stands, clothing and shoe sales. The business people are holding meetings, developing self-help groups and learning together.

We thank the Lord for his provision and the FL-GA District, its Executives, pastors, congregations, schools, teachers, LWML's, and individuals for their support and encouragement. Mission: Haiti is both honored and humbled to be endorsed by the FL-GA District. None of these blessings could have been accomplished without our prayer partners, encouragers, supporters and benefactors.

Respectfully submitted by Helen M. Roenfeldt, Mission Director

Rebecca's Garden of Hope

"Where Children Are Encouraged To Grow"

You may remember the passionate and spirit moving presentation Ms. Sanya Parson, the Director made at the 2012 FLGA Convention about our outreach model. In 2012, a very active outreach ministry had been underway for seven years at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Orlando, FL. Rebecca's Garden of Hope became a registered 501c-3 non-profit and a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod with the goal of establishing hundreds of tutoring and mentoring outreach stations across our country.

Today, Rebecca's Garden of Hope has 22 partner congregations in the FLGA District having either an active tutoring/mentoring outreach ministry or considering starting one in the future. Through this simple outreach tool we will introduce more of our neighbors to the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and establish a stronger presence in our communities while reaching more children and families with the love of Christ.

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Orlando, FL, Kenyatta Cobb, Pastor, has 40 neighborhood children coming each week with 10 adults mentoring these children. Over 75 children and adults have been baptized in three years. 20 of the children attend Sunday School and Our Savior currently has 7 from this outreach in Confirmation Class. In addition, another 7 post Confirmation high schoolers meet each Sunday morning with our Youth Class.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Titusville, FL, Rev Bruce Alberts, Pastor, has 20 neighborhood children coming each week with 20 adults mentoring these children. 9 family members have been baptized as a result of this outreach. The Sunday School has grown from 4 children to 30 each Sunday.

Emmanuel Haitian Lutheran Mission in Delray Beach, FL, Rev Daniel Bartley, Pastor, has 20 neighborhood children coming each Saturday evening with 4 adults mentoring these children. Nine of these children are in Confirmation Class.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Kissimmee, FL, Rev Bob Schmalze, Pastor, has 29 neighborhood children coming each week with thirteen adults mentoring these children.

St Andrew Lutheran Church in Hialeah, FL, tutoring outreach is having a very positive affect on the congregation as they tutor six children each week with the anticipation of adding more youth in the near future.

Hope Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, FL, Rev Patrick McKenzie, Pastor, has just begun their tutoring and mentoring outreach with three children.

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lake Worth, FL, Rev Steve Wipperman, Pastor, has twelve neighborhood children coming each week with five adults mentoring these children. Two of these children have been baptized and one of them is in Confirmation Class.

Zion Lutheran Church in Tampa, FL, Rev Patrick O'Brien, Pastor, has eleven neighborhood children coming each week for tutoring and mentoring.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Stockbridge, FL, Rev George Earhart, Pastor, has forty neighborhood children coming each week for tutoring and mentoring.

Bethany, Leesburg, FL, Pastor Marc Spaeth, Had eight – ten children last year from Marshallese Island. Their program is currently suspended but they plan on restarting in the near future.

Please see the pastors in the above congregations to hear their stories and the potential for your congregation, AND volunteer your support to these congregations by offering to tutor one or more of these children. We would love to have a network of retired LCMS and public school teachers support our efforts. Children around the FL-GA District need your help. More programs are forming and they may be located in an area near you. Please contact our office and if no one is available to take your call please leave a number at 407-447-9006. You can also call the Director at 407-256-4393.

Congregations in Ft Myers, Atlanta, Sebring, Lake Placid, Cape Canaveral, Ft Lauderdale, St Petersburg, Eatonton, Commerce, Warner Robins, Tucker, Decatur, and Nassau are exploring our outreach model for their missional focus.

In addition to the 24 congregational partners, in the FLGA District, Rebecca's Garden of Hope has 100 other partners in eighteen other states, (including two congregations in Hawaii), Washington DC, and one partner in Windsor, Ontario.

Who would have thought three years ago, Rebecca's Garden of Hope would go international. God did! To Him Be All the Glory.

Our special thanks to the FLGA District, the LWML, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and the FLGA District Lutheran Schools (Hearts for Jesus Offerings) for your support and prayers as the LCMS and Rebecca's Garden of Hope partner together to multiply exponentially our faith sharing moments with children and families in need of the love of Jesus.

Respectfully Submitted by Ms. Sanya Parson, Director

Transforming Churches Network/Revitalization

During the last triennium TCN/Revitalization ministry continued to serve and learn in supporting churches and church leaders toward a more external focus and revitalization. While there is no “magic bullet” for revitalization, such as a particular program, worship service style or structure, FLGA revitalization has endeavored to support the ministry of the Word by assisting congregations in a number of significant shifts: from an internal to a more external focus, from an attractional to an incarnational ministry while intentionally equipping the saints for the work of ministry. To this end a menu of services has been posted on the District web site with videos that seek to explain more. Among those services include: Leadership training, cultivating a shared vision, intentional outreach, coaching and coach training and TCN’s “Seasons of Discovery” which consists of four seasons over two or more years focusing on preparation, vision, outreach and empowerment.

TCN revitalization partnered with Lutheran Hour Ministries in its Outreach Initiative beginning in 2013. Rev. Ron Biel, Rev. Doug Kallesen, Rev. Dr. Terry Tieman and Rev. Scott Gress lead six presentations throughout the District in Phase Two of the LHM Outreach Initiative. As a result, 27 congregations asked to learn more about TCN’s “Seasons of Discovery” process. Now a number of congregations have agreed to move forward with a combination of various initiatives consisting of sermons, Bible studies, pastoral learning communities, lay leadership training and coaching and Seasons of Discovery.

Delivery methods have been varied including personal visits, telephone and skype appointments, seminars, training, pastoral learning communities and webinars. All methods have been pursued in order to support church leaders in the stewardship of the gospel and the first article gifts of leadership to “equip the saints for works of ministry” (Eph. 4).

This past year we said good-bye and offer our sincere thanks to Rev. Ron Biel for his partnership and years of energy, encouragement and support for congregational revitalization. His years of experience, not only in pastoral ministry, but also as a missionary in the Philippines, has been invaluable in helping so many in this important ministry.

As FLGA revitalization ministry continues with an emphasis on a “coach approach” to support churches and leader’s development, our services expand to include congregational assessments, self-studies and ongoing informal dialogue to be a resource that the “people of the FLGA District are equipped, empowered, engaged...connecting people to Jesus.”

Overtures

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: 2015: L1.1
Floor Committee Leadership**

To Support Non-Called Church Workers Through Prayer And Encouragement Of Professional Cohorts

Whereas, many churches use non-called workers (including unpaid lay volunteers) in the fabric of their ministries; and,

Whereas, non-called workers serve with the priesthood of believers for the sake of the ministry of the church; and,

Whereas, non-called workers join called workers in sacrificing for the sake of the church; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District add to its conferences opportunities for non-called workers to grow in the application in which they are serving; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District in convention give thanks for all of the workers of the church both called and non-called, Lay and professional.

Submitted by The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: L1.2
Floor Committee: Leadership**

Overture Regarding Peacemaking

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 peacemaker; and

Whereas, each District can be better served with the forming of a team of trained peacemakers to assist the four District Reconcilers as well as the Circuit Visitors; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Synod in Convention affirm the importance and witness of Christian peacemaking and the blessed work of District Reconcilers and Circuit Visitors in their Peacemaking roles; 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 seek out and appoint volunteer Circuit Peacemakers to work alongside them in this difficult work; 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 Circuit Visitors and Circuit Peacemakers to adequately prepare them for this important work.

Submitted by The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: L1.3
Floor Committee: Leadership**

In Support 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 Deacon 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, as our regional college of the Concordia University System desires to assist districts and congregations of the LCMS in training lay leaders or Certified/Licensed Lay Deacon 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.

Submitted by The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: L1.4
Floor Committee: Leadership**

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.

Submitted by the 005 Circuit of the Florida-Georgia District.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: L1.5
Floor Committee: Leadership**

To Recommend Moving 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; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District in convention recommend to the Synod for the 2016 Synod Convention the following:

Resolved, that in the interest of being good stewards of the limited resources of the Church, the Synod transition to meeting in convention once every four years instead of three; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District develop and offer a continuing education event or activity for professional church workers to take place during the extra intervening year.

Submitted by The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: L1.6
Floor Committee: Leadership**

To Develop a Plan to Consolidate the two Seminaries

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, in the changing climate of church and society and the decline of enrollment at our two seminaries that serve the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod; and

Whereas, under such circumstances continuing to maintain two such institutions is poor stewardship, and addressing this could bring further unity verses division within the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, that the LC-MS should proceed with a study to develop a plan of action to consolidate our seminaries in whatever setting may best serve the Kingdom work to which we have been commissioned; and be it further

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS send forth an Overture strongly urging this matter be brought before the assembly of the 2016 Synod Convention; and be it finally

Resolved, that doing so will hopefully help to bring further unity within the Synod and free up more resources to take a greater portion of the financial burden off of seminarians.

Submitted by the North Central Florida Circuit of the Florida-Georgia District.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: L1.7
Floor Committee: Leadership**

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 for 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

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

Submitted by University Lutheran Church and Student Center, Tallahassee FL, of the Florida-Georgia District.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: L1.8
Floor Committee: Leadership**

To Dissolve the English District and Commend the Current English District Congregations to Become Part of the Geographic Districts in which They Now Reside

Whereas, the English District has had a long and commendable history within the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod meeting the needs historically of those wishing to worship primarily in the English language; and

Whereas, most of the congregations of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod now worship with English being the primary language; and

Whereas, the congregations of the English District are not usually included in the geographic district in which they are located and so are excluded from participating in the geographic district's convention with regard to ministry participation and reporting; and

Whereas, the efforts of all congregations in a given geographic area are needed to reach the lost in the community in a coordinated and efficient manner; therefore be it

Resolved, the Florida-Georgia District in convention request that the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod dissolve the English District and commend the congregations of the current English District to become part of the geographic district in which they currently reside.

Submitted by the North Central Florida Circuit of the Florida-Georgia District.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District**

**Overture: C2.1
Floor Committee: Congregation**

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; 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 our service members who are currently in harm's way, as well as for their families and for those who have returned home; 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 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.

Submitted by Grace Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL, Board of Directors.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: C2.2
Floor Committee: Congregation**

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 has continued to increase its gifts to Synod with the current level of 15% of its budget, a directive of the 23rd District Convention June 13-15, 1980; and

Whereas, the members of our District have now worked with the critical target areas of leadership, congregations and outreach for the past decade and are better informed about our mission and ministry work together in the district; 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 God has placed them, and regular and planned financial support of their local parish as God richly 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, and they be encouraged to vigorously study God's Word and create a biblical stewardship plan that honors God's Word in the local parish and by implementing a regular congregational stewardship program that strengthens discipleship and study of God's Word, and service to others both within and outside their congregation, and a commitment to financial support as a result of practicing biblical stewardship (Malachi 3) which increases proportional giving toward a goal of tithing to the District; and be it further

Resolved, that our Florida-Georgia District likewise will continue to honor God as good stewards as these increased proportional gifts are received, and continue to increase its proportional gift Synod to reach 20% as we together work to connect people to Jesus both here and around the world; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District increase its support of missions and ministry throughout the District through programs like the Outreach Initiative, through support of circuit mission plants, and through building strong leaders and congregations as together we equip, empower and engage to connect people to Jesus.

Submitted by The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: C2.3
Floor Committee: Congregation**

To Encourage Congregations to Enhance Their Older Adult Ministries

Whereas, the population in the states of Florida and Georgia continue to age and attract retirees. It is projected that in the next 20 years there will be a 74% increase of people over the age of 50 and only a 1% increase under 50 and those over the age of 80 represent the fastest growing segment of society; and

Whereas, for the first time in the history of our nation there are more older adults than teenagers; and

Whereas, the number of individuals over the age of 100 has doubled in the last ten years; and

Whereas, it could be possible that we will soon have multi-generation adult families, e.g. children in their 60's, parents in their 80's, grandparents in their 100's, and possibly great grandparents; and

Whereas, older adults possess gifts, talents, and wisdom that can be used for the ministry of the congregations; and

Whereas, spiritual growth is an integral part of the aging process; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District form an Older Adult Advisory Committee to be empowered to help congregations promote and plan a ministry to, by, for, and with older adults; and be it further

Resolved, that older adult ministry be addressed within individual congregations and their communities; and be it finally

Resolved, that congregational leaders be encouraged to appoint a congregational Older Adult Coordinator (staff or lay volunteer) to distribute materials and news to intentionally embrace, enhance, and enlarge an older adult ministry.

Submitted by The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: C2.4
Floor Committee: Congregation**

For Continuing Education For Early Childhood Professionals

Whereas, other professionals require a continuing education component in order to maintain the highest level of competence; and

Whereas, Early Childhood teachers serve in an increasingly complex and challenging world which demands continual development and learning of new educational philosophy; and

Whereas, the Early Childhood school is felt to be a mission field for Biblical teachings; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District develop a standard for early childhood education professionals with regard to continuing education; and be it further

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District provide a plan for schools in implementing a standard for early childhood education professionals with regard to continuing education; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District provide an opportunity for a limited amount of financial assistance to schools in their support of Early Childhood Professional's continuing education plan.

Submitted by The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: C2.5
Floor Committee: Congregation**

To Study the State of Lutheran Schools and Projections for the Future

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, this trend is evident in urban, suburban and small town/rural areas; 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.

Submitted by The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: C2.6
Floor Committee: Congregation**

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.

Submitted by The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: C2.7
Floor Committee: Congregation**

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 for-profit 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.

Submitted by The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: O3.1
Floor Committee: Outreach**

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 be it

Resolved, that The Florida Georgia District in convention will 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 will 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 develop a simple reporting system and that congregations and schools of the District report outreach progress regularly; and be it finally

Resolved, that congregations and schools seek 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.

Submitted by The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: O3.2
Floor Committee: Outreach**

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; and

Whereas, Scriptures give witness to the Church as the Body of Christ on earth (Ephesians 1:22-23); 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 as it is continually sent out into the world to serve the Lord with gladness and bring the Gospel to all nations; and

Whereas, the world continues to be a dark place where the evil one prowls to deceive believers that God’s kingdom and reign are diminishing in a culture which has moved farther and farther away from its Creator, Redeemer and Lord; and

Whereas, God so loved the world to the point of sending His own Son, Jesus, to the Cross to redeem and save the world through Him (John 3:16-17); and

Whereas, the Church, Christ’s Body in the midst of the world today, functions with the same love for all people , bearing 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, will steadfastly encourage God’s people, the Church, in their mission to BE the Church outside of its institutional walls; and be it finally

Resolved, that The Florida-Georgia District will 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.

Submitted by The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: O3.3
Floor Committee: Outreach**

To Affirm Church Planting

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

Whereas, we know that without faith in Jesus it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6) and we furthermore read, Jesus saying, “I am the way the truth and the life no man comes unto the Father except through the Son.” John 14:6; 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, our Lord has commanded us to, “go and to make disciples...” Matthew 28:19; 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; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District in Convention re-affirm these plans to initiate more new starts in the coming triennium across our District; and be it further

Resolved, that congregations of the District consider their role in church planting; and be it further

Resolved, that congregations of the District add an increase of 5% or more to their District tithe for church planting; and be it further

Resolved, that mission progress be regularly reported in Lutheran Life for the benefit and encouragement of the entire District; and be it finally

Resolved, that congregations of the District will regularly pray for new church plants in the District and also for workers in the Harvest field.

Submitted by The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: O3.4
Floor Committee: Outreach**

To Re-Affirm LCMS Commitment To The Work Of The Great Commission

Whereas, the words of Matthew 28:19-20 powerfully shares Jesus’ Great Commission to His disciples to “go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age”; and

Whereas, that Great Commission has been and remains the heart of our mission as the Church to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those around us; and

Whereas, there are many, many people in our towns, villages, cities, be they large urban centers, suburban neighborhoods or tiny rural hamlets, who have not heard 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 finally

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

Submitted by The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: O3.5
Floor Committee: Outreach**

Ministry To Homosexual Individuals

Whereas, the LCMS has consistently held that homosexual behavior is intrinsically sinful; as is recorded both in resolutions of Synod and the documents of the CTCRⁱ; and

Whereas, the state of Florida has legalized same-sex marriage, and many other states have followed suit; and

Whereas, it is now very likely that LCMS pastors will encounter same-sex couples who are recognized as legally married; and

Whereas, pastors are ministers that are licensed by the State to marry individuals in the states in which they reside; and

ⁱThe LCMS affirmed that homosexual behavior is “intrinsically sinful” and that, “on the basis of Scripture, marriage [is] the lifelong union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:2---24; Matt. 19:5---6)” (2004 Res. 3---05A). The LCMS has also urged its members “to give a public witness from Scripture against the social acceptance and legal recognition of homosexual ‘marriage’” (2004 Res. 3---05A). At the same time, the Synod firmly believes “the redeeming love of Christ, which rescues humanity from sin, death, and the power of Satan, is offered to all through repentance and faith in Christ, regardless of the nature of their sinfulness” (1992 Res. 3---12A). ⁱⁱ Questions such as, What does repentance look like for individuals recognized as legally married to same---sex partners? Or should pastors be encouraged to perform opposite---sex marriages for those who have repented of homosexual behavior yet remain legally married to someone of the same sex? Are now real possibilities and are being faced by LCMS pastors and congregations.

Whereas, while the LCMS holds a position that is contrary to the State's definition of marriage, pastors may still be requested to perform, preside at, or in some other official public fashion be present at same-sex marriages; and

Whereas, acting upon a position that conflicts with the State's definition of marriage may constitute a form of civil disobedience and pose special challenges to pastors offering counsel to those who are recognized as legally married to same-sex partners; and

Whereas, LCMS pastors are called to minister to all sinners, offering both Law and Gospel; and

Whereas, LCMS pastors would be best served with additional guidance that clears up any confusion in ministering to those in homosexual lifestyles; and

Whereas, LCMS pastors are called by Christ to be missional, offering hope to all repentant sinners seeking grace in Christ, which includes those in homosexual lifestyles; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District in Convention affirm the Synod's stance on same-sex marriage and ministry to homosexual individuals; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District in Convention request that the Synod offer practical pastoral guidelines on how to directly minister to individuals in State-sanctioned same-sex marriage.

Submitted by The Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

End of Overtures

Resolutions

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Resolution: L1.1
Floor Committee: Leadership**

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.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Resolution: L1.2
Floor Committee: Leadership**

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.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Resolution: L1.3
Floor Committee: Leadership**

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.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Resolution: L1.4
Floor Committee: Leadership**

To Have Each Region of the LCMS Elect Their Regional Vice President

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 finally

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS send an Resolution to the 2016 National Convention encouraging the election of Regional Vice Presidents by members of the regions they represent.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Resolution: L1.5
Floor Committee: Leadership**

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.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Resolution: L1.6
Floor Committee: Leadership**

To Create a Seminary Education Futures Task Force

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.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Resolution: L1.7
Floor Committee: Leadership**

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.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: L1.8
Floor Committee: Leadership
DECLINED**

To Dissolve the English District and Commend the Current English District Congregations to Become Part of the Geographic Districts in which They Now Reside

Whereas, the English District has had a long and commendable history within the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod meeting the needs historically of those wishing to worship primarily in the English language; and

Whereas, most of the congregations of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod now worship with English being the primary language; and

Whereas, the congregations of the English District are not usually included in the geographic district in which they are located and so are excluded from participating in the geographic district's convention with regard to ministry participation and reporting; and

Whereas, the efforts of all congregations in a given geographic area are needed to reach the lost in the community in a coordinated and efficient manner; therefore be it finally

Resolved, the Florida-Georgia District in convention request that the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod dissolve the English District and commend the congregations of the current English District to become part of the geographic district in which they currently reside.

To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District

Resolution: C2.1
Floor Committee: Congregation

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.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Resolution: C2.2
Floor Committee: Congregation**

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 23rd 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 Florida-Georgia 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.

To the 32nd Regular Convention

Overture: C2.3

**Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Floor Committee: Congregation
DECLINED**

To Encourage Congregations to Enhance Their Older Adult Ministries

Whereas, the population in the states of Florida and Georgia continue to age and attract retirees. It is projected that in the next 20 years there will be a 74% increase of people over the age of 50 and only a 1% increase under 50 and those over the age of 80 represent the fastest growing segment of society; and

Whereas, for the first time in the history of our nation there are more older adults than teenagers; and

Whereas, the number of individuals over the age of 100 has doubled in the last ten years; and

Whereas, it could be possible that we will soon have multi-generation adult families, e.g. children in their 60's, parents in their 80's, grandparents in their 100's, and possibly great grandparents; and

Whereas, older adults possess gifts, talents, and wisdom that can be used for the ministry of the congregations; and

Whereas, spiritual growth is an integral part of the aging process; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District form an Older Adult Advisory Committee to help congregations promote and plan a ministry to, by, for, and with older adults; and be it further

Resolved, that congregations be encouraged to address older adult ministry within individual parishes and their communities; and be it finally

Resolved, that congregational leaders be encouraged to appoint a congregational Older Adult Coordinator (staff or lay volunteer) to distribute materials and news to intentionally embrace, enhance, and enlarge an older adult ministry.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Resolution: C2.4
Floor Committee: Congregation**

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.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Resolution: C2.5
Floor Committee: Congregation**

**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.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Resolution: C2.6
Floor Committee: Congregation**

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.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Resolution: C2.7
Floor Committee: Congregation**

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 for-profit 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.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12-14, 2015**

**Resolution: O3.1
Floor Committee: Outreach**

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 will 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 seek 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.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12-14, 2015**

**Resolution: O3.2
Floor Committee: Outreach**

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, will 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 will 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.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12-14, 2015**

**Resolution: O3.3
Floor Committee: Outreach**

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).

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12-14, 2015**

**Resolution: O3.4
Floor Committee: Outreach**

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, disciple-making 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.

**To the 32nd Regular Convention
Florida-Georgia District
June 12 – 14, 2015**

**Overture: O3.5
Floor Committee: Outreach
DECLINED**

Ministry To Homosexual Individuals

Whereas, the LCMS has consistently held that homosexual behavior is intrinsically sinful; as is recorded both in resolutions of Synod and the documents of the CTCRⁱ; and

Whereas, the state of Florida has legalized same-sex marriage, and many other states have followed suit; and

Whereas, it is now very likely that LCMS pastors will encounter same-sex couples who are recognized as legally married; and

Whereas, pastors are ministers that are licensed by the State to marry individuals in the states in which they reside; and

Whereas, while the LCMS holds a position that is contrary to the State's definition of marriage, pastors may still be requested to perform, preside at, or in some other official public fashion be present at same-sex marriages; and

Whereas, acting upon a position that conflicts with the State's definition of marriage may constitute a form of civil disobedience and pose special challenges to pastors offering counsel to those who are recognized as legally married to same-sexⁱⁱ partners; and

Whereas, LCMS pastors are called to minister to all sinners, offering both Law and Gospel; and

Whereas, LCMS pastors would be best served with additional guidance that clears up any confusion in ministering to those in homosexual lifestyles; and

Whereas, LCMS pastors are called by Christ to be missional, offering hope to all repentant sinners seeking grace in Christ, which includes those in homosexual lifestyles; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District in Convention affirm the Synod's stance on same-sex marriage and ministry to homosexual individuals; and be it finally

Resolved, that the Florida-Georgia District in Convention request that the Synod offer practical pastoral guidelines on how to directly minister to individuals in State-sanctioned same-sex marriage.

End of Resolutions

ⁱ The LCMS affirmed that homosexual behavior is "intrinsically sinful" and that, "on the basis of Scripture, marriage [is] the lifelong union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:2---24; Matt. 19:5---6)" (2004 Res. 3---05A). The LCMS has also urged its members "to give a public witness from Scripture against the social acceptance and legal recognition of homosexual 'marriage'" (2004 Res. 3---05A). At the same time, the Synod firmly believes "the redeeming love of Christ, which rescues humanity from sin, death, and the power of Satan, is offered to all through repentance and faith in Christ, regardless of the nature of their sinfulness" (1992 Res. 3---12A).

ⁱⁱ Questions such as, What does repentance look like for individuals recognized as legally married to same---sex partners? Or should pastors be encouraged to perform opposite---sex marriages for those who have repented of homosexual behavior yet remain legally married to someone of the same sex? Are now real possibilities and are being faced by LCMS pastors and congregations.

Circuit Visitors 2015-2018

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 Pfeiffer
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	
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

**Nominations For Office
Florida-Georgia District, LCMS
2015 - 2018
(*Incumbent)**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	*The Rev. Gregory S. Walton
Vice President	*The Rev. David Brighton, Region 1 *The Rev. Frank Marshall, Region 2 *The Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser, Region 3 The Rev. Jon Zehnder, Region 4 *The Rev. Stephen Wipperman, Region 5
Secretary	*The Rev. Jay Winters
Region 1 Lay	Mr. Robert Chambers Mr. William Jones *Mr. Jay Wendland
Region 2 Lay	*Mr. Donald Kaufman *Ms. Lois Schaefer
Region 3 Lay	*Mr. Jon Brazee Mr. Tom Reagin
Region 4 Lay	*Ms. Beverly Nyce *Mr. Jeff Richards
Region 5 Lay	Mr. Adam Kless Mr. Samuel Ludington Mr. Hector Sanchez *Ms. Karen Smith

Commissioned Minister Religion

- *Ms. Lois Ford
- *Mr. Nick Moss

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Pastor The Rev. James Guelzow

Commissioned Minister Religion

Mr. Pete LeBorious

Mr. Michael Popp

Ms. Jessica Popp

Lay

Ms. Deb Baldwin

Ms. Joyce Brown

Mr. David Eichinger

Mr. Ruben Vinardell

SYNOD COMMISSION ON NOMINATIONS

Lay

Mr. Bill Gaik

(This list are those who agreed to let their name stand)

Biographical Information

Ordained

***The Rev. David Brighton:**

Nominated for: Region 1 Vice President

Age: 59

Present Congregation: Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Warner Robins, Georgia

Years in District: 16

Incumbent: yes

District Offices held: First Vice President; Georgia Region Vice President of the Florida-Georgia District; Circuit Counselor

Additional Information: Stephen Ministry Trainer; PLI Class of 2005; Graduate studies in the DMin program at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California.

Former Pastorates: St Mark, Omaha, Nebraska; St Paul, Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Ordained: 1982

The Rev. James Guelzow:

Nominated for: Nomination Committee - Ordained

Age: 67

Present Congregation: (Emeritus) Messiah Lutheran Church, Tampa, Florida

Years in District: 41

Incumbent: no

District Offices held: FLGA District Vice President; FLGA District LWML Counselor; Mission Advisory Council member; Circuit Outreach Council Chairman; Tampa Circuit Counselor

Former Pastorates: Messiah Lutheran Church, Tampa, Florida, Peace Lutheran Church, Okeechobee, Florida

Ordained: 1974

***The Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser:**

Nominated for: Region 3 Vice President

Age: 60

Present Congregation: Woodlands Lutheran Church, Montverde, Florida

Years in District: 34

Incumbent: yes

District Offices held: Region 2 Vice President FLGA Board of Directors; Circuit Counselor; Circuit Counselor Outreach; Lutheran Church Extension Fund Advisory Committee; District President's Representative for Lutheran Disaster Response.

Former Pastorates: St Mark's Lutheran Church, Hollywood, Florida

Ordained: 1981

***The Rev. Frank Marshall:**

Nominated for: Region 2 Vice President

Age: 69

Present Congregation: (Emeritus) St Paul Lutheran, Jacksonville, Florida

Years in District: 28

Incumbent: yes

District Offices held: Region 2 Vice President; Board of Directors member; Circuit Counselor.

Former Pastorates: St Paul Lutheran, Jacksonville, Florida

Ordained: 1973

***The Rev. Gregory Walton:**

Nominated for: District President

Age: 53

Present Congregation: Serving as the District President for the Florida-Georgia District

Years in District: 28

Incumbent: yes

District Offices held: Chairman of Task Force on Recruitment; Circuit Secretary/Treasurer; Region 1 Pastoral Representative; Georgia Vice President; Circuit Counselor – Atlanta Circuit.

Additional Information: Emergent Leader Training; PLI; Florida-Georgia District President; Council of President's member.

Former Pastorates: Trinity Lutheran Church, Toccoa, Georgia; Faith Lutheran Church, Marietta, Georgia.

Ordained: 1987

***The Rev. Jay Winters:**

Nominated for: Secretary

Age: 34

Present Congregation: University Lutheran Church and Student Center

Years in District: 7

Incumbent: yes

District Offices held: Secretary

Additional Information: Emergent Leader Training; Lutheran Campus Mission Association Secretary 2009-2012

Former Pastorates: none

Ordained: 2007

***The Rev. Stephen Wipperman:**

Nominated for: Region 5 Vice President

Age: 62

Present Congregation: Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lake Worth, Florida

Years in District: 9

Incumbent: yes

District Offices held: Current Region 5 Vice President; 2nd Vice President, Mission Board, Circuit Counselor, North Wisconsin District; District Mission Executive, Minnesota South District.

Former Pastorates: Mission of Christ, Milwaukee, WI; Christ, Wausau, WI;

Ordained: 1978

The Rev. Jon Zehnder:

Nominated for: Region 4 Vice President

Age: 58

Present Congregation: St. Michael Lutheran Church, Ft. Myers, Florida

Years in District: 14

Incumbent: no

District Offices held: Circuit Visitor 2004 – 2015

Additional Information: Board of Parish Services for Synod; Board of Directors for Concordia Publishing House.

Former Pastorates: Hope Lutheran Church, Munger, MN

Ordained: 1982

Commissioned

***Ms. Lois Ford:**

Nominated for: Board of Directors – Commissioned

Age: 62

Present Congregation: Faith Lutheran Church and School, Eustis, Florida

Years in District: 39

Incumbent: yes

District Offices held: Commissioned Minister FLGA Board of Directors; current Chair of the District Scholarship Committee; LWML District President.

Additional Information: 21 years at St John Lutheran Church and School, Ocala, Florida; currently 18 years at Faith Lutheran Church & School.

Former Services Rendered: Taught grades PK4 – 5th grade, mostly 3rd grade.

Mr. Peter LeBorious:

Nominated for: Nominations Committee - Commissioned

Age: 47

Present Congregation: Mount Calvary, Warner Robins, Georgia

Years in District: 13

Incumbent: no

District Offices held: none

Additional Information: Masters Degree in education Administration with a concentration in Organization Development.

Former Services Rendered: Christ the King, Largo, Florida; Fairlawn Lutheran, Fairlawn, Ohio; good Shepherd Lutheran Turlock, California

***Mr. Nicklaus Moss:**

Nominated for: Board of Directors – Commissioned

Age: 33

Present Congregation: St Paul Lutheran Church and School, Lakeland, Florida

Years in District: 10

Incumbent: yes

District Offices held: FLGA District Youth Planning Teams.

Additional Information: National Association of DCE's Committee; Currently on the NYG Planning Team.

Former Services Rendered: 10 years in current position at St Paul, Lakeland, Florida.

Ms. Jessica Popp:

No information received

Mr. Michael Popp:

No information received

Lay Person

Ms. Debra Baldwin

Nominated for: Nomination Committee - Lay

Age: 50

Present Congregation: St Mark Lutheran, Tucker, Georgia

Years in District: 27

Incumbent: no

District Offices held: none

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Youth Director; Secretary; Treasurer; LWML Secretary; Young Women's Rep at LWML Convention, 1996

Formal Education: Currently pursuing Associates Degree in Business Mgmt, H/R Concentration

Business Occupation (past, present): Ryder System Inc. for 33 years, in 3 divisions, 2 states Georgia and Utah. I currently work as the Senior Rebuild Accounting Admin & H/R Coordinator for the Ryder Rebuild Center in Doraville, Georgia

Employment Status: Full time

***Mr. Jon Brazee:**

Nominated for: Region 3 Lay Representative

Age: 66

Present Congregation: Christ Lutheran Church, Cape Canaveral, Florida

Years in District: 30

Incumbent: yes

District Offices held: Region 2 & 3 Lay Representative

Congregational Offices Held at current congregation: President

Formal Education: Joliet Junior College, AS Engineering; University of Miami, Architecture; University of Florida, Architecture; University of South Florida, Business; University of Central Florida, AA, BS Civil Engineering; Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Florida, Civil Engineering

Business Occupation (past, present): Reedy Creek Improvement District, Senior Civil engineer; TLP Engineering Consultants, V/P Structural Engineer; Canaveral Port Authority, Deputy Executive Director/Chief Engineer; CH2M Hill, Senior Project Manager

Employment Status: Employed full-time

Ms. Joyce Brown

Nominated for: Nomination Committee - Lay

Age: 70+

Present Congregation: Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Sarasota, Florida

Years in District: 4

Incumbent: no

District Offices held: none

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Chair Foundation, Building Committee

Formal Education: M.S. + 90 hrs.

Business Occupation (past, present): School Administrator

Employment Status: Retired

Mr. Robert "Bob" Chambers

Nominated for: Region 1 Lay Representative

Age: 70

Present Congregation: Grace Lutheran, Atlanta, Georgia

Years in District: 44

Incumbent: no

District Offices held: none

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: President; Head Elder; Trustee

Formal Education: BA Valpariso, JD Woodrow Wilson College of Law

Business Occupation (past, present): Attorney

Employment Status: Retired

Mr. David Eichinger

No information received

Mr. William Gaik:

Nominated for: Nomination Committee - Lay

Age: 73

Present Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church, Toccoa, Georgia

Years in District: 63

Incumbent: no

District Offices held: Lay Member of the FL-GA District Board of Directors Region 1; District Finance Committee;

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Elder

Formal Education: BSBA.

Business Occupation (past, present):

Employment Status: Retired

Mr. William (Bill) Jones

Nominated for: region 1 Lay Representative

Age: 65

Present Congregation: Christ our Savior, Griffin, Georgia

Years in District: 60

Incumbent: no

District Offices held: none

Congregational Offices Held at current congregation: Elder; Vice President; Financial Secretary; Treasurer

Formal Education: St. Johns College (AA); University of Georgia (BA); Wichita State (grad school)

Business Occupation (past, present): Human Resources – Atlanta Journal

Employment Status: Retired

***Mr. Donald Kaufman:**

Nominated for: Region 2 Lay Representative

Age: 69

Present Congregation: St. John Lutheran Church and School, Ocala, Florida

Years in District: 14

Incumbent: yes

District Offices held: Lay Representative region 2

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Elder; Chairman of the Spiritual Life and Worship Commission; Chairman of the Board of Elders; various committees and trained in Evangelism Ministry; Building Committee.

Formal Education: BA & MS in Secondary Education from Purdue University

Business Occupation (past, present): Taught 32 years full time and 4 years part time

Employment Status: Part time at St John Lutheran Church and School

Mr. Adam Kless

Nominated for: Region 5 Lay Representative

Age: 43

Present Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church, Lake Placid, Florida

Years in District: 1

Incumbent: no

District Offices held:

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Parish Nurse

Formal Education: BA Psychology, Masters in Nursing

Business Occupation (past, present): Chief Nursing Officer Highlands Medical Center

Employment Status: Employed

Mr. Samuel Ludington

Nominated for: Region 5 Lay Representative

Age: 27

Present Congregation: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, North Miami, Florida

Years in District: 21

Incumbent: no

District Offices held: none

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Vice President; Chair Vision Committee; Chair Board of Education

Formal Education: Masters of Biomedical Sciences, Barry University, Miami, Florida; BA Economics, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

Business Occupation (past, present): Deputy Director, Children of Inmates, Inc.,

Employment Status: Full time

***Ms. Beverly Nyce**

Nominated for: Region 4 Lay Representative

Age: 65

Present Congregation: Marco Lutheran Church, Marco Island, Florida

Years in District: 10

Incumbent: yes

District Offices held: Region 4 Lay Representative

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: Stephen Minister, Council Human Resource Advocate, Past President, Chairperson of Board of Human Care

Formal Education: 4 years of College

Business Occupation (past, present): Sr. Executive at United Health Group

Employment Status: Retired

Mr. Tom Reagin

Nominated for: Region 3 Lay Representative

Age: 54

Present Congregation: Hope Lutheran Church, Plant City, Florida

Years in District: 22

Incumbent: no

District Offices held: none

Congregational Offices Held: Vice President; President; Elder

Formal Education: College Graduate

Occupation: Community Engagement for Thrivent; Brandon Chamber of Commerce

Employment Status: Thrivent

***Mr. Jeff Richards:**

Nominated for: Region 4 Lay Representative

Age: 61

Present Congregation: Hope Lutheran Church, Bradenton, Florida

Years in District: 35

Incumbent: yes

District Offices held: Board of Directors member

Congregational Offices Held: Board of Elders; Congregational Vice President; Board of Education; Youth Counselor; Sunday School Superintendent

Formal Education: AA Marketing Degree

Occupation: Sales

Employment Status: Full time

Mr. Hector Sanchez

Nominated for: Region 5 Lay Representative

Age: 34

Present Congregation: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Weston, Florida

Years in District: 2

Incumbent: no

District Offices held: none

Congregational Offices held at current congregation: none

Formal Education: M.S. Engineering Management, Marquette University; BS Mechanical Engineering Marquette University

Business Occupation (past, present): Commodity Director for KLX AeroSpace Solutions

Employment Status: Full time

***Ms. Lois Schaefer:**

Nominated for: Region 2 Lay Representative

Age: 66

Present Congregation: Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Oxford, Florida

Years in District: 11

Incumbent: yes

District Offices held: Board Member

Congregational Offices Held: Board of Directors; Outreach Chairman Mission Leader Nationally and Internationally, Building Committee Secretary

Formal Education: BS; Training toward Director of Christian Outreach

Occupation: Management

Employment Status: Retired

***Ms. Karen Smith:**

Nominated for: Region 5 Lay Representative

Age: 62

Present Congregation: Peace Lutheran Church, Okeechobee, Florida

Years in District: 36

Incumbent: yes

District Offices held: Board of Directors; Secretary of Lutheran Administrators Association

Congregational Offices Held: Sunday School Superintendent; Prayer Ministry Coordinator; Financial Secretary; Youth Director

Formal Education:

Occupation: Director of Peace Lutheran School

Employment Status: Full time

Mr. Ruben Vinardell

No information received

***Mr. Jay Wendland:**

Age: 51

Present Congregation: Living Faith Lutheran Church, Cumming, Georgia

Years in District: 8

Incumbent: yes

District Offices held: Lay Representative Board of Directors

Additional Information: Former Congregation Our Redeemer, Jackson, Mississippi

Congregational Offices Held: Treasurer; Financial Secretary

Formal Education: BS Degree University of Southern Mississippi

Occupation: Vice President Sales, Director Channel Programs, Sales Manager, Sales Rep

Employment Status: Full time

Official Acts and Notices of the Florida-Georgia District

Official Acts of the Florida-Georgia District

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The official acts of the Florida-Georgia District listed in the Convention Workbook are those that were processed prior to March 31, 2015. A complete list of all Official Acts of this Triennium will be listed in the Proceedings when they are published. If you notice an error in the listing, please contact Lynda Voss, lvoss@flgadistrict.org, and she will make the correction before the Proceedings are published.

Official Acts – Ordination & Commissioning and Initial Installation

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name University</i>	<i>School City, State</i>	<i>Position</i>
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
12/20/2014	Boeck , Thomas R. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Faith Marietta, GA	Pastor - SMP Ordained
12/23/2012	Cho , Sun Il Concordia, Irvine	Faith Marietta, GA	Korean / Missionary Ordained
9/15/2013	Duseberg , Amanda B. Concordia, Chicago	Redeemer Stuart, FL	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
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
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, GA	Pastor Ordained
7/6/2014	Reynolds , Stephen Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Shepherd of the Coast Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Pastor Ordained
4/27/2014	Sanabria , Yolima Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Messiah Tampa, FL	Deaconess Commissioned
6/2/2013	Sims , Raleigh Norman Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Ascension Cassleberry, FL	SMP Pastor Ordained
8/18/2013	Skelton , Benjamin S. Concordia, Nebraska	Trinity Orlando, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/10/2014	Sorensen , Daisha Concordia, Nebraska	Trinity Rockledge, FL	Teacher Commissioned
2/2/2014	St. Georges , Alyssa Diane Concordia Seminary, St. Louis	Redeemer Sanford, FL	Deaconess Commissioned

Official Acts – Installations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Church/School City, State</i>	<i>Position Classification</i>
8/10/2014	Abraham , Mr. Caleb	Trinity Delray Beach, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/24/2014	Anderson , Rev. Steven P	Good Shepherd Sarasota, FL	Pastor Ordained
9/8/2013	Bauer , Mrs. Kaitlin E.	St. Paul Boca Raton, FL	DCE Commissioned
8/19/2012	Becker , Jeremy	St. Paul Weston, FL	DCE Commissioned
8/18/2013	Blank , Ms. Laura Ann	Trinity Orlando, FL	Teacher Commissioned
11/25/2012	Boehlke , Rev. Craig R.	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Melbourne, FL	Pastor Ordained
2/24/2013	Carlton , Rev. Richard C	FLGA District Orlando, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/19/2012	Costley , Dorothy	Redeemer Stuart, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/17/2014	Dean , Ms. Brenda K.	St. Paul Peachtree City, GA	Teacher Commissioned
7/1/2011	Deng , Rev. Bafel	Peace Decatur, GA	Missionary Ordained
1/27/2013	Dietrich , Dr. Joel	St. Paul Peachtree City, GA	DCE Commissioned
10/20/2013	Durheim , Mr. Steve	Grace Jacksonville, FL	DCE Commissioned
3/30/2014	Eichinger , Rev. Eric T.	Bethel Clearwater, FL	Pastor Ordained
3/9/2014	Fuehler , Rev. Kenneth M.	Faith North Palm Beach, FL	Interim Pastor Ordained
10/27/2013	Garazin , Rev. Kenneth W	Marco Marco Island, FL	Pastor Ordained
12/10/2013	Goff , Rev. Dennis J.	St. Louis, MO	LCEF VP Ordained
8/17/2014	Grubb , Ms. Crislyn R.	Redeemer Stuart, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/17/2014	Hillman , Ms. Laura	Grace Jacksonville, FL	Teacher Commissioned
11/7/2014	Hoffman , Rev. Zachary E	Good Shepherd Gainesville, FL	Pastor Ordained
12/2/2012	Horsman , Rev Jonathan	Grace Winter Haven, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/12/2012	Jurkowski , Rev. Mark	St. John Ocala, FL	Pastor Ordained

Date	Name	Church/School City, State	Position Classification
11/10/2013	Kelm , Rev. Daniel W.	Trinity Summerfield, FL	Pastor Ordained
9/23/2012	Kirk , Rev. Alston S.	Prince of Peace Orlando, FL	Sr. Pastor Ordained
3/3/2013	Knapp , Rev. Richard S.	Grace Key West, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/26/2012	Leupold , Patrick H.	Trinity Holly Hill, FL	Principal Commissioned
8/26/2012	Malenke , Julia	Trinity Orlando, FL	Teacher Commissioned
8/12/2012	Mattheus , Ellen	Grace Winter Haven, FL	EC Director Commissioned
10/26/2014	Maulella , Rev. Robert	Faith Sebring, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/12/2012	Meier , Carisa D.	Our Savior Plantation, FL	Teacher Commissioned
10/26/2014	Moore , Rev. Tyler Christopher	Our Savior St. Petersburg	Pastor Ordained
2/2/2015	Pennekamp , Rev. Ronald D	St. Paul Lakeland, FL	Senior Pastor Ordained
8/24/2014	Potter , Mr. Jeffrey E.	St. Paul Boca Raton, FL	Assistant Principal Commissioned
7/3/2012	Reinhardt , Rev. Robert C.	Faith Sebring, FL	IIM Pastor Ordained
8/11/2013	Rittierodt , Ms. Rachel	Trinity Delray Beach, FL	Teacher Commissioned
2/3/2013	Roth , Rev. John	FLGA District/Estero Design Team, Estero, FL	Pastor Ordained
7/15/2012	Schermbeck , Rev. Andrew D.	Holy Trinity Tampa, FL	Pastor Ordained
9/21/2014	Schroeder , Rev. Andrew L.	Lake Oconee Eatonton, GA	Pastor Ordained
9/28/2014	Skopak , Rev. Jeffrey	Grace Jacksonville, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/18/2013	Smith , Ms. Jill	St. Paul Lakeland, FL	Teacher Commissioned
7/13/2014	Stark , Rev. Paul M.	St. Paul Peachtree City, GA	Pastor Ordained
7/7/2013	Stoltenberg , Rev. James G.	Lake Oconee Eatonton, GA	Pastor - IIM Ordained
7/22/2012	Stoneburner , Gordon F.	Gloria-Dei Davie, FL	Principal Commissioned
8/19/2012	Ueltzen , Larry	Shepherd of the Coast Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Teacher Commissioned

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Church/School City, State</i>	<i>Position Classification</i>
6/29/2014	Vilsaint , Rev. Jasue J	Trinity Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Missionary Ordained
9/7/2012	Weingart , Ms. Jenna A.	Good Shepherd Sarasota, FL	Teacher Commissioned
1/31/2015	Wenndt , Rev. Thomas R	Faith New Port Richey, FL	Pastor Ordained
8/17/2014	Wittcop , Ms. Jessica	Grace Winter Haven, FL	Teacher Commissioned

Official Acts – 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

Official Acts – Workers that transferred in to the Florida-Georgia District

Date	Last, Title, First, Middle	Transferred from District	Classification
7/23/2014	Abraham , Mr. Caleb	Michigan	Commissioned
7/1/2013	Anderson , Rev. Russell	Iowa West	Ordained
8/21/2012	Becker , Ms. Kristin A.	Missouri	Commissioned
7/10/2014	Brockerg , Dr. Kevin H	Michigan	Commissioned
9/30/2013	Crabtree , Rev. Bruce	Southeastern	Ordained
8/1/2014	Deterding , Rev. Curtis L.	Minnesota North	Ordained
7/18/2013	Dunn , Ms. Kelsey A.	California-Nevada-Hawaii	Commissioned
9/22/2013	Durheim , Mr. Steven Wayne	Southern	Commissioned
8/16/2013	Elmshausen , Ms. Laura Ann	Michigan	Commissioned
5/21/2013	Felderman , Ms. Carol S	Ohio	Commissioned
2/24/2014	Fuehler , Rev. Kenneth M.	Southeastern	Ordained
7/1/2013	Garcia , Rev. Albert L.	South Wisconsin	Ordained
8/4/2014	Harkey , Rev. Edwin T.	New England	Ordained
10/31/2014	Hilgendorf , Mrs. Mary E	South Wisconsin	Commissioned
7/2/2014	Hillman , Ms. Laura	Iowa East	Commissioned
2/1/2015	Huggins , Rev. Marvin A	Missouri	Ordained
10/1/2013	Johnson , Rev. Russel P.	English	Ordained
10/21/2013	Kelm , Rev. Daniel W.	South Wisconsin	Ordained
7/19/2012	Kirchoff , Rev. (Chp) Scott W.	Indiana	Commissioned
1/26/2013	Krentz , Rev. Eugene	Northern Illinois	Ordained
2/6/2014	Miller , Rev. Dr. Warren E.	Missouri	Ordained
6/30/2012	Nelson-McKenzie , Dr. Kristen	Michigan	Commissioned
9/27/2013	Pena , Ms. Janice E.	Missouri	Commissioned
10/6/2012	Rabe , Rev. Mark A.	California-Nevada-Hawaii	Ordained
8/1/2014	Reitsma , Ms. Joy	Northern Illinois	Commissioned
11/1/2013	Rittierodt , Mr. Thomas C.	DCE	Commissioned
11/12/2012	Schieber , Mr. Helmut E	Kansas	Commissioned
7/30/2012	Schrader , Ms. Janice Lynn	Southeastern	Commissioned
7/21/2014	Scudieri , Dr. Robert	English	Ordained
9/1/2012	Simela , Ms. Phyllis N	Southern	Commissioned
7/1/2012	Stoneburner , Mrs. Audrey A	Texas	Commissioned
9/1/2013	Stuckert , Mr. Gordon S	Ohio	Commissioned
6/2/2014	Swartz , Ms. Diane L.	Pacific Southwest	Commissioned
3/3/2014	Wahner , Ms. Laurie J.	Pacific Southwest	Commissioned
8/12/2013	Wenndt , Rev. Thomas R.	Central Illinois	Ordained
7/31/2014	Wittcop , Ms. Jessica	Mid-South	Commissioned
6/27/2013	Yates , Rev. Alvey	Rocky Mountain	Ordained

Official Acts – Workers that transferred out of Florida-Georgia District

Date	Last, Title, First	To District:	Classification
8/15/2013	Achong , Mr. Andrew	Kansas	Commissioned
7/18/2012	Bakkeland , Ms. Sarah Jean	Northern Illinois	Commissioned
3/26/2014	Bangert , Mr. Justin	Oklahoma	Commissioned
7/30/2014	Bergholt , Mrs. Melissa	Missouri	Commissioned
6/30/2013	Bossow , Ms. Gina Marie	Rocky Mountain	Commissioned
5/30/2013	Chormann , Rev. William	Northern Illinois	Ordained
12/13/2013	Daene , Rev. Roger W.	Indiana	Ordained
7/30/2014	Dauss , Mr. Ryan	Southern	Commissioned
8/27/2014	Duport , Mr. Kyle	Pacific Southwest	Commissioned
6/1/2014	Duport , Mrs. Rebecca	Pacific Southwest	Commissioned
9/10/2013	Fields , Rev. Andrew	Indiana	Ordained
12/3/2013	Fulmer , Rev. Daniel R.	Michigan	Ordained
7/16/2013	Gerling , Ms. Kathleen	California-Nevada-Hawaii	Commissioned
3/21/2013	Giesecking , Mr. David	Southern	Commissioned
5/21/2013	Groleau , Ms. Sandra J.	Minnesota North	Commissioned
7/20/2012	Heidle , Rev. Michael K.	Central Illinois	Ordained
7/1/2014	James , Ms. Levana Lee	Southern	Commissioned
7/9/2014	Kemerling , Ms. Karla Rae	Indiana	Commissioned
7/29/2013	Klumb , Ms. Hannah	NOW	Commissioned
1/31/2013	Larsen , Ms. Stacy L	Minnesota South	Commissioned
9/7/2012	Link , Ms. Kimberly	South Wisconsin	Commissioned
8/15/2014	Lustila , Mr. Gerald	Montana	Commissioned
8/13/2013	Mabrey , Ms. Christine	Southeastern	Commissioned
9/19/2012	Markworth , Rev. Richard	South Wisconsin	Ordained
8/1/2014	Meyer , Rev. David M.	Minnesota North	Ordained
10/11/2013	Neugebauer , Rev. Aaron J.	MidSouth	Ordained
6/11/2013	Porter , Mrs. Ellen L.	Pacific Southwest	Commissioned
9/13/2012	Rattei , Ms. Faith J.	Minnesota North	Commissioned
6/29/2013	Reitsma , Ms. Joy Lynn	Northern Illinois	Commissioned
12/3/2013	Ross , Mrs. Sarah A.	Rocky Mountain	Commissioned
5/31/2014	Sankey , Mrs. Margaret	Michigan	Commissioned
10/17/2012	Schmidt , Rev. Karl K.	Southeastern	Ordained
7/31/2013	Schrader , Mr. Stephen	Minnesota South	Commissioned
7/1/2013	Sibley , Mrs. Megan	Oklahoma	Commissioned
8/1/2014	Skelton , Mr. Benjamin	SELC	Commissioned

Date	Last, Title, First	To District:	Classification
7/1/2014	Stoneburner , Mrs. Audrey	Texas	Commissioned
8/15/2013	Struckmeyer , Mr. Andrew	Texas	Commissioned
5/31/2013	Thomas , Ms. Jennifer N.	Indiana	Commissioned
7/19/2012	Vega , Rev. Roland	Kansas	Ordained
7/30/2012	Wegner , Mr. Jeffrey S.	Southeastern	Commissioned
6/4/2013	Worthington , Mrs. Tamara	English	Commissioned
4/8/2013	Zimmerman , Rev. Paul	Indiana	Ordained

Official Acts – Called to Glory

Date	Last, Title, First	Classification
6/10/2013	Airey , Rev. Christian G.	Ordained
7/24/2014	Buchheimer , Rev. John	Ordained
10/28/2013	Gerken , Rev. Oscar A.	Ordained
6/7/2013	Heideman , Mr. Harlan	Commissioned
10/11/2014	Jones , Rev. John R.	Ordained
2/20/2015	Koepchen , Rev. Paul K	Ordained
4/8/2014	Miller , Rev. Robert S.	Ordained
12/21/2012	Olson , Rev. Robert	Ordained
11/9/2012	Perez-Arche , Rev. Mario	Ordained
11/14/2012	Sagehorn , Mr. Donald J.	Commissioned
8/29/2014	Schroeder , Rev. Donald K.	Ordained
2/14/2014	Snow , Rev. Edward Eugene	Ordained
8/28/2012	Thiele , Rev. Karl	Ordained
7/9/2014	Wessel , Rev. Kenneth H.	Ordained
7/9/2012	Zeile , Rev. Dr. Walter	Ordained

Official Acts – Workers removed from the Roster

<i>Date</i>	<i>Last, Title, First, Middle</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>	<i>Classification</i>
4/14/2014	Ahrens, Mr. Frank	Resigned	Commissioned
1/23/2013	Brown, August D	Resigned	Commissioned
2/3/2014	Hanesworth, Mr. Timothy A.	Resigned	Commissioned
1/29/2014	Jaranowski, Mrs. Elizabeth	Resigned	Commissioned
12/4/2014	Oxley, Dcs Sara	Resigned	Commissioned
6/17/2014	Skelton, Jon	Resigned	Commissioned
10/4/2013	Schroeder, Mrs. Kristin M.	Resigned	Commissioned

Removed by Action of the President

<i>Date</i>	<i>Last, Title, First, Middle</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>	<i>Classification</i>
1/22/2013	Brandel, Harold	Removed	Ordained
1/28/2015	Fick, Marsha	Removed	Commissioned
1/31/2015	Hibbs, Jack	Removed	Commissioned
5/24/2013	Owens, Linda	Removed	Commissioned
1/28/2015	Pitts, Ms. Michelle	Removed	Commissioned
12/9/2013	Thomason, Ms. Victoria	Removed	Commissioned

Official Acts – Status Change

Date	Last, Title, First	From: Status To: Status	Classification
7/31/2012	Achong , Mr. Robert Drew	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
6/7/2013	Beckwith , Mrs. Darla R	From: Active To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
7/31/2013	Carlton , Rev. Richard	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
6/17/2013	Davis , Rev. Jeremy	From: Active To: Candidate	Ordained
2/14/2014	Durheim , Mrs. Michelle R.	From: Non-Candidate To: Candidate	Commissioned
8/15/2013	Einspahr , Mr. Byron Byrdell	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
8/1/2012	Ferrier , Rev. Kenneth Middle	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Ordained
6/15/2012	Grana , Rev. Peter	From: Active To: Candidate	Ordained
6/30/2012	Haney , Ms. Elizabeth Faye	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
9/30/2012	Hansen , Rev. David D	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Ordained
7/1/2013	Heflin , Mr. Roy W.	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
5/2/2014	Hinchey , Rev. Donald	From: Active To: Candidate	Ordained
5/5/2013	Horsman , Rev. Jonathan	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
10/12/2012	Johnson , Ms. Noel N.	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
8/3/2012	Juszcak , Mr. Jared	From: Active To: Non-candidate	Commissioned
7/9/2012	Knapp , Rev. Richard	From: Active To: Candidate	Ordained
7/1/2014	Knutson , Mr. Jeffrey R.	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
1/1/2013	Koren , Ms. Donna L.	From: Candidate To: Non-candidate	Commissioned
3/23/2013	Lewis , Ms. Ellen K.	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
1/26/2013	Mahler , Mr. James	From: Candidate To: Non-candidate	Commissioned
8/30/2013	Mattheus , Mrs. Ellen	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned

Date	Last, Title, First	From: Status To: Status	Classification
3/1/2014	McPherson , Rev. Daniel P.	From: Active To: Candidate	Ordained
7/31/2013	Munce , Ms. Kathleen	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
3/18/2014	Nowicki , Mr. Michael W.	From: Non-Candidate To: Non-candidate	Commissioned
11/26/2012	Oxley , Ms. Sara	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
9/5/2012	Rattei , Ms. Faith	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
9/16/2012	Rockey , Mr. Stephen J	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
7/1/2014	Sankey , Mr. Brent	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
6/30/2013	Schelp , Mr. Keith	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
10/19/2014	Shea , Ms. Jodene M.	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
5/24/2013	Skilton , Mr. Jon	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
8/15/2013	Sorkness , Ms. Sara Ellen	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
6/1/2014	Steinke , Ms. Laurie J.	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
10/13/2014	Tereszkiewicz , Mrs. Mary F	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
1/28/2015	Toms , Ms. Emily	From: Active To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
7/14/2014	Vaughn , Ms. Jennifer E.	From: Active To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned
11/7/2014	Vogel , Mr. Timothy M.	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
7/1/2014	Wetherell , Mr. Mark E.	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
2/8/2013	Zabel , Mrs. Mary	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
4/15/2014	Zickfield , Mr. James	From: Active To: Candidate	Commissioned
11/7/2014	Zook , Mr. Randall	From: Candidate To: Non-Candidate	Commissioned

Official Acts – Emeritus Status

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Classification</i>
1/1/2015	Abram , Rev. Mark	Ordained
12/31/2013	Baum , Rev. Dr. Henry	Ordained
6/1/2014	Bollhagen , Rev. James	Ordained
5/31/2013	Dorlac , Ms. Barbara	Commissioned
5/12/2013	Fountain , Rev. Douglas E.	Ordained
5/18/2014	Guelzow , Rev. James	Ordained
3/1/2015	Hackbardt , Rev. D. Michael	Ordained
4/14/2013	Kuehn , Rev. Gilbert	Ordained
7/31/2014	Meunier , Mr. Dennis M.	Commissioned
12/31/2014	Moore , Rev. Dr. Jeffrey C.	Ordained
6/22/2014	Nabinger , Rev. David E.	Ordained
4/1/2012	Pueschel , Rev. Alec	Ordained
10/31/2013	Reinke , Rev. Clarence F.	Ordained
6/30/2013	Roberts , Rev. Donald S.	Ordained
11/11/2012	Schoenrock , Rev. Harlan R	Ordained
3/20/2013	Schrank , Deborah	Commissioned
9/7/2014	Steinke , Rev. Robert	Ordained
6/30/2014	Stoeckel , Ms. Linda	Commissioned
6/30/2014	Vangen , Rev. Philip M.	Ordained
6/30/2014	Weidner , Mr. David L.	Commissioned
11/18/2013	Yates , Rev. Alvey	Ordained

Official Acts – Congregations Changes

Date	Church	Action	Approved by BOD	Signed Constitution
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 Tampa, FL	Disbanded/dissolved		
2/26/2015	Trinity Lutheran Church of Southwest Florida, Rotunda West, FL	New Church Start		
4/7/2015	Light of the Glades Estero, FL	Disbanded/dissolved		



Charter and Bylaws 2012

The Florida-Georgia District, LCMS

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THE CHARTER AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

Article I

The name of this corporation shall be “The Florida-Georgia District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, incorporated.”

The principal business office of this corporation shall be located in Metropolitan Orlando, State of Florida.

Article II

The general nature of the object of this corporation is:

- a. To unite in a corporate body the congregations holding membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through the Florida-Georgia District.
- b. Receive, acquire, hold, manage, and control real and personal property of whatever description and such other property as may hereafter be acquired.
- c. To promulgate the Gospel throughout the world, and specifically to establish and maintain missions, educational, and charitable institutions.
- d. This corporation shall have power and authority in its corporate name to contract, sue, and be sued; to use a corporate seal; to have, receive, hold, purchase, convey, mortgage, and lease property, both real and personal; and to make and establish laws, rules, and regulations for its management and support as shall be necessary and proper.

Article III

Membership in this corporation is held and may be acquired by congregations, ministers of religion—ordained, and ministers of religion—commissioned, as defined by the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, who confess and accept the confessional basis of Article II of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and who have been received into the district at the time of joining the Synod, who have been transferred from another district, or who have been assigned to the district by the Synod.

Article IV

The term for which this corporation is to exist is perpetual.

Article V

Section 1

The affairs of the corporation are to be managed by the following officers, to wit:

- A president
- A first vice-president
- A second vice-president
- A third vice-president
- A fourth vice-president
- A fifth vice-president
- A secretary
- A treasurer

and such other officers as the Bylaws may provide.

Section 2

The board of directors shall consist of the following:

- a. Elected at large: the president, the secretary, and three (3) ministers of religion, commissioned, who are members of the Synod. They must be or be willing to become resident members of a congregation within the district.
- b. Selected on a regional basis and elected by ratification by the district convention: five (5) vice-presidents who are ministers of religion, ordained, and members of the Synod. They must be or be willing to become resident members of a congregation within the region they represent.
- c. Selected on a regional basis and elected by ratification by the district convention: ten lay persons who are resident members of a congregation within the region they represent.
- d. Elected by the board of directors: the treasurer, who is a resident member of a congregation within the district.

Section 3

The officers and the board of directors shall be elected at a regular meeting of the corporation by the delegates constituting the same as provided for in the bylaws, with the exception that the treasurer shall be elected by the board of directors at its next regular meeting following the election meeting of the corporation. All officers shall hold their respective offices for a term of three (3) years, and shall assume office at the time specified in the bylaws.

Section 4

Whenever an officer or director shall cease to be a resident member of a congregation within the corporation, or within the region he or she represents, he or she shall cease forthwith to be an officer or a director of this corporation.

Article VI

The Bylaws of this corporation are to be made, altered, or rescinded by the members of the corporation at any special or regular meeting of this corporation, provided the same are not inconsistent with this Charter, or with the laws of the land, or with the Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Article VII

The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which this corporation may at any time subject itself shall be two-thirds of the market value of all corporate assets.

Article VIII

The highest amount in value of the real estate which this corporation may hold shall be \$100,000,000.00.

Article IX

The voting power of this corporation shall be exercised by the accredited clergy and lay delegates of the congregations constituting its membership, each congregation being entitled to one (1) clergy and one (1) lay vote. Parishes in which two (2) or more congregations are served by the same pastor shall be restricted to one (1) lay vote and one (1) clergy vote.

Article X

Section 1

The board of directors shall have power to buy, sell, lease, mortgage, hypothecate property, whether movable or immovable, borrow, issue bonds, notes, and pledges of all kinds, and generally to manage and control the property and the secular and business affairs of this corporation, and shall do all things necessary to promote the objects and purposes of this corporation as set forth in Article II.

Section 2

Vacancies in the board shall be filled by it at its next regular meeting or at a special meeting held for that purpose.

Section 3

A majority of the members of the board, each of whom must be personally present at the meeting, shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

Section 4

All citations or any other legal process shall be served on the president of this corporation, or, in his absence, upon the respective vice-president, or, in their absence, upon the secretary.

Article XI

This corporation shall meet triennially in the year prior to the regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In cases of urgent necessity, the district president is empowered to convene special sessions of the district; he must, however, previously have obtained consent of at least a majority of the voting members of the district, after having informed them and the President of the Synod of the purpose of the intended special session.

Article XII

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended at any regular or special meeting of this corporation, provided such amendment, or amendments, are not inconsistent with Article II or Article III of this charter, or with the laws of the state of Florida, or with the Constitution, Bylaws and resolutions of the Synod, and provided such amendment, or amendments, are approved by a majority vote of the members present at such meeting, and provided further that a copy of the proposed amendment, or amendments, shall have been forwarded previously to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for their review and approval, and to all congregations constituting the membership of the corporation at least sixty (60) days prior to such meeting. Such amendments become effective within sixty (60) days unless more than one-third of the congregations of the district send written dissent to the secretary of the district. Should this occur, the matter is referred to the board of directors. If the board of directors determines that the provisions of this article (Article XII) have been met, the amendment will become effective no later than 120 days from its passage at the convention.

BYLAWS TO THE CHARTER OF THE FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD, INC.

PREAMBLE

The Florida-Georgia District, though an independent corporation under the laws of Florida, adopts and holds as its own the Constitution of its parent body, viz: The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. It shall do all in its power to promote the Synod's aims and purposes, and shall be subject to all general rules and regulations of the Synod. For the more efficient execution of its own local affairs, the district adopts the following rules and regulations as Bylaws to its legal Charter:

VISION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod grows out of God's merciful mission to a sinful and hurting world. This mission centers on Jesus, the crucified and risen Christ, whose ministry continues among us to bring life and healing to the world today. The Holy Spirit, who creates and sustains one, holy, catholic and apostolic church of Christ, seeks to guide all that this church does in His name to the glory of God the Father.

Within this fellowship, Christians are called to love each other with the love of Christ and to work together in a trust that is established by His Grace. Called by His Spirit into this fellowship, all of God's people are sent back into the world to share the Good News of God's redeeming love and grace for all people.

As individual congregations, the Body of Christ in our various locales, we recognize that by working together we can assist one another in love and trust to accomplish more effectively this mission and ministry of the whole church. Therefore, we joyfully and freely commit ourselves to the following Bylaws and we hold ourselves accountable to the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, a corporate servant structure, whose purpose is to serve, assist, and encourage congregations, church workers, and leaders, expanding God's mission and ministry.

Since God's mission and ministry occur through local congregations, and it is our desire that every congregation be a church in mission; and every man and woman a missionary, all working together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, empowered by His Gospel, to share his Love. Therefore the Vision of the Florida-Georgia District is: Every member. . .Equipped, Empowered, Engaged. . .Connecting People to Jesus.

D1.04 VOTING DELEGATES

Pastors and lay delegates of congregations holding voting membership, as specified in Article IX of the Charter, shall be voting delegates. The lay delegates shall be district representatives to their respective congregations between conventions.

D1.06 ADVISORY MEMBERS

The following ministers of religion, ordained or commissioned, who hold membership in the Synod through the district shall be regarded as advisory members with full freedom of speech in district conventions:

- a. Pastors whose congregations do not hold membership in the Synod;
- b. Assistant pastors;
- c. Ministers of religion, ordained, not in charge of congregations;
- d. Ministers of religion, commissioned, called to serve in our Lutheran schools;
- e. Ministers of religion, commissioned, called to serve in full-time church work;
- f. Deaconesses;
- g. Parish assistants;
- h. Certified lay ministers;
- i. Candidates for the ministry of religion, either ordained or commissioned.

D1.07 DUTIES OF ADVISORY MEMBERS

Advisory members, though not entitled to vote or hold office except as hereafter specified, shall be eligible to serve on advisory councils and task forces or in other capacities, as directed by the district. Ministers of religion, commissioned, holding membership in voting congregations who are on the roster of the Synod shall be eligible for membership on the board of directors.

D1.08 NON-VOTING CONGREGATIONS

Non-voting congregations are encouraged to send representatives to the district convention and to become members of the Synod. Such representatives may be given the privilege of the floor at the discretion of the presiding officers, but may not vote or serve on any committee.

D1.53 DELEGATES TO SYNODICAL CONVENTIONS

- a. Each electoral circuit of member congregations shall elect one (1) pastoral and one (1) lay delegate.
- b. One (1) advisory delegate shall be elected for every sixty (60) advisory ordained ministers and specific ministry pastors, and one (1) advisory delegate for every sixty (60) commissioned ministers on the roster of the Synod. Fractional groupings shall be disregarded except that each district shall be entitled to at least one (1) advisory delegate in each category.

D2.01 ELECTIVE OFFICERS

The elective officers of the district shall be:

- a. The president - minister of religion, ordained, a member of a voting congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
- b. Five (5) vice-presidents – ministers of religion, ordained, and members of voting congregations;
- c. One (1) counselor for each visitation circuit - pastor of a voting congregation, or a retired minister of religion ordained, who is a member of a voting congregation;
- d. A secretary - minister of religion, ordained, a member of a voting congregation;
- e. A treasurer - lay member of a voting congregation (elected by the board of directors).

D2.03 ELECTIVE BOARD AND COMMITTEE OF THE DISTRICT

- a. The elective board of the district shall be the board of directors composed of:
 1. The president;
 2. The five (5) vice-presidents;
 3. The secretary;
 4. The treasurer, a resident member of a congregation within the district;
 5. Three (3) ministers of religion, commissioned, who are members of the Synod;
 6. Ten (10) lay persons, resident members of congregations within the district, elected on a regional basis.
- b. The elective committee of the district shall be a committee for nominations, composed of two (2) ministers of religion, ordained, four (4) lay persons, and two (2) ministers of religion, commissioned.
 1. Each region of the district shall be represented on the committee.
 2. The term of office shall be three (3) years.
 3. Committee members shall not succeed themselves.
 4. In the event that a member of the committee for nominations is unable to serve, the district board of directors shall appoint a replacement from the same region and the same classification.

D2.05 APPOINTIVE OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEES

The president may appoint the following officials and committees:

- a. A committee on registration, credentials, and attendance, composed of:
 1. One (1) minister of religion, ordained, pastor of a voting congregation;
 2. One (1) lay person, member of a voting congregation;
 3. One (1) minister of religion, commissioned, member of a voting congregation.
- b. A committee on housing, composed of:
 1. One (1) minister of religion, ordained, pastor of a voting congregation.
 2. One (1) lay person, member of a voting congregation;
 3. One (1) minister of religion, commissioned, member of a voting congregation.
- c. A judge of elections, who is to be the pastor of a voting congregation, for whom the district shall furnish adequate clerical assistance.
- d. A committee on conference essays and minutes, composed of:
 1. One (1) minister of religion, ordained, pastor of a voting congregation;
 2. One (1) lay person, member of a voting congregation;
 3. One (1) minister of religion, commissioned, member of a voting congregation.
- e. Convention reviewing committees and floor committees for the processing of reports and overtures, as determined to be necessary by the president.
- f. A district archivist.

D2.06 TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for all officers and the board of directors shall be three (3) years. All officers and the board of directors shall begin their term of office at the time specified in these Bylaws. No individual shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms in any one (1) elective office, except that the president and the district treasurer shall be eligible for four (4) consecutive terms of office. Any person elected hereunder shall serve until his replacement has been elected.

D2.07 TRANSITION OF ADMINISTRATIONS

- a. The president, vice-president, secretary, and all members of the board of directors (except the treasurer) shall assume office on the last Sunday of the month following their election. The treasurer shall be elected at the first meeting of the board of directors following its assuming office and shall take office immediately following the election.
- b. Before his successor assumes office, the outgoing president shall use the intervening time to transfer the affairs of his administration and assist the newly elected president as requested to become acquainted with the responsibilities of the office.
- c. The existing board of directors shall continue to function until the newly elected and re-elected members take office. They shall continue to carry out programs initiated prior to the electing convention of the district.
- d. No appointments shall be made and no new programs shall be initiated by the outgoing president or the board of directors during the interim between the convention and the time the newly elected president and the board of directors takes office. Emergency action that demands immediate attention shall be taken in consultation with the newly elected president. In advising congregations in the calling of a pastor, the outgoing president shall seek the concurrence of the newly elected president.
- e. In the interim, the newly elected president shall meet with the members of the district staff and the new board, to assess the state of the district, to plan for the communication and carrying out of the resolutions of the district convention, and to gather names and obtain information helpful for making wise appointments.
- f. The newly elected members of the board of directors shall attend whatever meetings are held in the interim, without vote, to become acquainted with their new responsibilities and board functions
- g. If the president does not stand for re-election for any reason or because he either fails of nomination or election, before reaching retirement age, he shall continue to receive a full salary to the end of the calendar year, unless he accepts another position. In the event he tenders his resignation prior to the completion of the term of office to which he has been elected, he shall be continued at full salary for a minimum of three (3) months, unless he declines such remuneration or has accepted another position. Any extension of support beyond three (3) months' time shall be determined by the board of directors.

D2.08 DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The duties of all officers, the board, committees, or commissions, elected or appointed, as well as duties of all employees of the district, shall be those outlined in the District Handbook, or established by regulations adopted by the district or expressed in the Constitution, Bylaws and resolutions of the Synod.

D2.13 ACCOUNTABILITY

The board of directors, all officers, and the elected committee for nominations shall be accountable to the district for all their transactions.

D2.16 VACANCIES

All vacancies shall be filled according to regulations of the Synod. In case of a vacancy in the offices of secretary or treasurer, the vacancy shall be filled by the board of directors with the approval of the district president, as set forth in regulations pertaining to the respective office.

THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

D2.29 RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The district president, in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod (Constitution Article XII and Bylaws section 4.4), shall supervise the doctrine, the life, and the official administration of the ordained and commissioned ministers and the congregations of the district. He may call on the vice-presidents and circuit counselors to assist him.
- b. The district president may arrange for an official visit, or an investigation, even without formal request when any controversy arises in a congregation or between two (2) or more congregations in the district. He shall ask for a report on the case by the contesting parties in order that, by such a report, he may be enabled to have a clearer conception of the real situation. If he authorizes someone to represent him in such matters, his representative shall be accorded the same right.
- c. The district president may suspend from membership ordained or commissioned ministers for persistently adhering to false doctrine or for having given offense by an ungodly life.
- d. The district president shall be a full-time executive. He shall not be in charge of a congregation or hold a chair at any educational institution. He shall be the chief executive officer of the district and have supervision of all officers and employees of the district. He shall make regular reports to the district board of directors regarding the critical ministry targets and desired outcomes of the board of directors. He shall be responsible for carrying out the resolutions of the district.
- e. He shall cause the resolutions of the Synod to be implemented in the district, and he shall report regularly to the President of the Synod.
- f. He shall represent the Synod in connection with all ordinations, commissioning, and installations.
- g. He shall be responsible for maintaining the official roster of the district.
- h. He shall arrange an official visit to each congregation of the district at least once every three (3) years. He may call upon circuit counselors and vice-presidents to assist him.
- i. As often as possible, the district president shall attend conferences of pastors and teachers, advise congregations as to the calling of professional church workers, give counsel and respond to requests and inquiries.
- j. At the sessions of the district, the president shall conduct the meetings according to the accepted parliamentary rules and in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and of the district.
- k. He shall be an ex officio voting member of all committees, and task forces of the district.
- l. He shall be responsible for drawing up and distributing the convention manual prior to a district convention.
- m. He shall sign all legal documents and instruments and shall perform all additional duties which the district places on him through its Bylaws, regulations, and by special resolution.

D2.33 VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

- a. When a vacancy occurs in the office of the president and is officially declared so by the board of directors, the first vice-president shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if he consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.
- b. If the first vice-president declines, the second vice-president shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if he consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.

- c. If the second vice-president also declines, the third vice-president shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if he consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.
- d. If the third vice-president also declines, the fourth vice-president shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.
- e. If the fourth vice-president also declines, the fifth vice president shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.
- f. If the fifth vice-president also declines, the secretary shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if he consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.
- g. If the secretary also declines, the board of directors shall appoint an acting president. If less than one (1) year remains in the term of the president, the acting president shall remain in office until the next regular convention of the district. If more than a year remains, the board of directors shall call for nominations by the congregations of the district for candidates to fill the office of president and shall be empowered to elect a president from those five (5) candidates who have received the largest number of nominations and who have indicated a willingness to serve.

D2.34 PERTAINING TO THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

- a. The vice-presidents shall be voting members of the board of directors.
- b. Vacancy in the Vice-Presidency
 - 1. A vacancy in the first vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the second vice-president.
 - 2. A vacancy in the second vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the third vice-president.
 - 3. A vacancy in the third vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the fourth vice-president.
 - 4. A vacancy in the fourth vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the fifth vice-president.
 - 5. A vacancy in the fifth vice-presidency shall be filled by the board of directors which shall give consideration to the ballots cast in the preceding election.

THE DISTRICT SECRETARY

D2.40 THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The secretary shall be a minister of religion, ordained, and a member of a voting congregation.

D2.42 DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

- a. The district secretary shall perform the duties appertaining to that office.
- b. He shall keep a full and complete record of the business transacted by the corporation at all regular and special conventions and the meetings of the board of directors.
- c. He shall be the official correspondent of the corporation and the board of directors.
- d. He shall submit to the members of the board of directors copies of the minutes of the board.
- e. He shall send a report to all officers of the district and to all committees, and task forces of the district of the resolutions pertinent to them, or their work, enacted by the district at its convention or by its board of directors.
- f. He shall function, if appropriate, as an administrator in the dispute resolution process (Handbook of Synod [2010 edition] Bylaws 1.10.4a and 1.10.6.)
- g. He shall be responsible for carrying out the nomination procedures outlined in D2.127, D2.133, and D2.136 b., and according to the appropriate Synodical Bylaws (Handbook of Synod [2010

edition] Bylaw 4.7.) In addition he shall solicit nominations for the offices indicated in D2.01, and shall then communicate these nominations to the committee for nominations.

- h. He shall publish the proceedings of the conventions of the district. He shall prepare the manuscripts, recording all resolutions in the wording in which they have been adopted, and publish the proceedings after the president of the district has approved.
- i. He shall, prior to the district convention, submit to the Commission on Constitutional Matters for their review, a copy of all anticipated corrections, additions, or deletions to or of the district bylaws.
- j. He shall, upon the close of the district convention, present a copy of all corrections, additions, or deletions to or of the district bylaws to the board of directors, and when prepared, provide an updated copy of the Articles of incorporation and Bylaws to the Office of the Secretary of Synod.

D2.44 DUTIES OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

- a. An assistant secretary shall be a member of the board of directors, and appointed by the board with the approval of the district president.
- b. The responsibility of the assistant secretary shall be limited to the signing of official documents as authorized by the board of directors.
- c. Copies of such documents will be provided to the district secretary.

D2.47 THE DISTRICT TREASURER

The district treasurer, elected by the board of directors (four (4) term limit), shall be responsible, either directly or through staff assistance, to the board of directors for the following:

- a. To prepare the district budget, realistically estimating income and expenditures;
- b. To report monthly to the board on the financial status of the district and provide an annual report to the district at the close of each fiscal year;
- c. To receive, record, and deposit all district moneys properly, in banks approved by the board of directors;
- d. To make his books available for audits authorized by the board;
- e. To disburse funds as authorized and in accordance with the district budget;
- f. To provide for the safe-keeping of all notes, deeds, and other official documents of the district;
- g. To ensure that all district officers and district staff (professional and clerical) handling district moneys are properly and adequately bonded;
- h. To arrange for the borrowing of moneys in the name of the district as authorized by the board of directors.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

D2.71 MEMBERSHIP

- a. The board of directors shall consist of twenty-one (21) persons as follows: the district president; the five (5) vice-presidents; the district secretary; the district treasurer; ten (10) lay persons who are resident members of congregations within their respective regions of the district; and three (3) ministers of religion, commissioned, who are members of the Synod. The Executive Directors shall be advisory members of the board.
- b. Every member of the board shall be a member of a voting congregation of the district. When a member of the board ceases to be a member of a voting congregation of the district, he/she shall automatically lose membership on the board. Those members of the board of directors who are

elected representatives for regions of the district shall cease to be members of the board if they are no longer a member of a congregation located in the region which they represent.

D2.72 REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Members of the board shall discharge their duties in good faith. The following are considered cause for removal pursuant to Synod Bylaw 1.5.7:

- a. Incapacity
- b. Breach of fiduciary responsibility
- c. Neglect or refusal to perform the duties of office
- d. No longer satisfying the qualifications for a director
- e. Conviction of a felony
- f. Failure to disclose conflicts of interest
- g. Conduct evidencing a scandalous life
- h. Advocacy of false doctrine, as per the confessional standard of the Synod (Constitution, Article II)
- i. Failure to honor and uphold the doctrinal position of the Synod
- j. Accumulation of three (3) unexcused absences within any term of office

D2.73 VACANCIES

The board shall have power to fill all vacancies in its membership. The member thus appointed shall serve out the unexpired term of the person he/she succeeds.

D2.74 OFFICERS

At the first meeting of the triennium, the board of directors shall elect one (1) of its members to serve as Chairman. The secretary of the district shall function as the secretary of the board.

D2.75 AUTHORITY

The board of directors, charged with the general management of the district's affairs, shall assume office at the time specified in Bylaw D2.07.

D2.76 ORGANIZATION

- a. Between conventions, the board of directors shall formulate policy and evaluate the programs designed to carry out the district's work in accordance with the rules and regulations of the district.
- b. The Executive Directors of the Divisions for Congregational Services, School Ministries, Mission Outreach, and Administration, Finance, and Stewardship shall be advisory to the board and shall implement the programs and policies determined by the district in convention and by the board.

D2.77 MEETINGS

- a. The board shall meet four (4) times a year, and whenever the president or at least one-third of the members deems it necessary.
- b. The majority of the voting membership of the board shall constitute a quorum provided that all members have been duly notified by mail or telephone as to time and place of meeting at least one week in advance.

D2.78 AUTHORITY BETWEEN MEETINGS

Executive Committee

- a. At its first meeting the newly elected board shall elect from among its members an executive committee consisting of the district president, the treasurer, and three (3) additional members, at least one (1) of whom must be a minister of religion ordained and one (1) a member of the laity.
- b. Also, the chairman of the board shall be one (1) of the five (5) members of the executive committee.
- c. The committee shall have the authority to act for the board between meetings.

D2.79 DUTIES

The duties of the board of directors shall be:

- a. To elect the treasurer;
- b. To call or appoint the executive directors of the district, and determine their length of service;
- c. To annually review the system for determining the compensation of all personnel salaried by the district;
- d. To hold in trust the properties of the district, with power to buy, sell, or hold properties of all types, in accord with the rules and regulations of the district;
- e. To report to the district, through its president, at each convention of the district;
- f. To adopt the annual budget, with powers of review and change as necessary, upon the advice of the district treasurer
- g. To determine the validity of any appeal for funds within the district by organizations or groups inside or outside the district, but without restraining the Synod in any way;
- h. To authorize the treasurer to borrow money necessary for the orderly operation of the district;
- i. To indemnify members of the board of directors in accordance with the policies set forth in the board policy manual.
- j. To conform its actions to all rules and regulations of the Synod and the district. Appeals may be made from the actions of the board to the district convention, and the action of the convention on such appeals shall be final.
- k. To approve legal aspects of the corporation in compliance with all applicable laws.
- l. To approve congregational constitutions and bylaws upon advice of the constitution committee and recommendation of the district president. .
- m. To appoint legal counsel.
- n. To conduct an annual evaluation of the district president regarding his administrative performance.

D2.80 EXPENSES

All expenses incurred by the board in carrying out its duties shall be paid by the district.

D2.93 AUDITOR

All books and financial records of the district shall be audited at least annually by a certified public accountant or by CPA's of the Synod's Internal Audit Department as determined by the board of directors. A full report of such audit shall be submitted to the board, with a summary report made available to the district convention.

D2.112 THE DISTRICT ARCHIVES AND ARCHIVIST

The district shall:

- a. Gather and preserve all historical matter of the district;
- b. Maintain a depository for these archives in a convenient place;

- c. Appropriate money in the annual budget for the expenses of such an archive and archivist;
- d. Keep pictures and biographies of all pastors and teachers who have served or are serving in the district;
- e. File the minutes of district conventions, pastors' and teachers' conferences, auxiliary organizations or conventions, and records of the district officers, boards and committees, when they are no longer needed.
- f. Index and file all material, and at the end of each calendar year, send a list of all material in or added to the archives to the Concordia Historical Institute;
- g. Appoint one (1) person in each circuit of the district to assist him/her in gathering material;
- h. Report annually to the board of directors and briefly to the district convention.
- i. The district archivist shall be appointed by the district president and serve at his pleasure.

SELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD

D2.121 JUDGE OF ELECTIONS

- a. The president of the district shall appoint a judge of elections prior to the first session of the convention in which elections are to be held. The district shall supply adequate clerical assistance and the necessary equipment to prepare and tabulate ballots.
- b. Each ballot shall be headed "Official Ballot" plus the year in which the election is held.
- c. The ballots shall designate the office to be filled and the number of candidates to be voted for. The first ballot shall list in alphabetical order the names of the candidates to be voted for in each office or board, with the exception of the circuit counselors. On the second and subsequent ballots, the candidate having the largest number of votes shall be placed in first position, and so on.
- d. The ballot shall be prepared in such manner as to show clearly how the delegates are to indicate their votes.
- e. Ballots shall be distributed only to delegates properly identified and present on the convention floor or properly present in convention committee rooms.
- f. After the ballots have been distributed, no recess or adjournment shall be taken until the respective ballots have been collected.
- g. For the tabulation of votes: mechanical, electronic, or other equipment may be employed, but if manual counting of ballots becomes necessary the tabulation shall take place in the customary manner by at least one (1) reader and one (1) tabulator.
- h. Before announcing the names of the candidates elected, the judge of elections shall give copies of the tabulated votes to the chairman and the secretary of the convention. The tally of the votes cast for each candidate shall be announced after each ballot in all elections.
- i. In reporting the number of votes cast and the number of votes required for election, all ballots cast, except blanks, should be counted. A vote shall be credited to the name of the respective candidate if the meaning is clear and the intention of the voter can be established.
- j. All ballots, void or valid, shall be preserved by the judge of elections separately, according to the order of balloting, until the convention has been adjourned.
- k. At least two (2) hours prior to the distribution of each ballot, when necessary, the judge of elections shall distribute the information concerning the candidates which has been furnished him by the committee on nominations.
- l. Since it is not feasible for all candidates to be present at the convention, it shall be the policy not to introduce to the convention, in person, any candidate.

D2.125 MAJORITY OF VOTES

A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and other elective positions. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes eliminated from consideration until one (1) candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.

D2.127 ELECTION OF THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Nominations

- a. Nominations for district president shall be made by member congregations through the district secretary and shall close ninety (90) days prior to the beginning of the convention. The district secretary shall call for nominations at least 180 days prior to the convention. Each congregation shall have the right to nominate two (2) candidates for the office of the presidency.
- b. The five (5) ministers of religion, ordained, receiving the highest number of nominations shall be considered candidates.
- c. Biographical sketches and indications of the candidates' willingness to serve shall be secured by the district secretary.

Elections

- a. Each voting delegate shall have one (1) vote and the candidate receiving the majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
- b. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, see D2.125.

D2.133 PRIMARY ELECTION FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Nominations

- a. Nominations for regional vice-president shall be made from the clergy roster of Synod by member congregations of each region no later than ninety (90) days prior to the beginning of the convention. Nominees must be or be willing to become resident members of a congregation within the region they represent. The district secretary shall call for nominations at least 180 days prior to the convention.
- b. The member congregations of each region have the right to nominate two (2) ministers of religion ordained.
- c. In each region, the three (3) ministers of religion, ordained who receive the highest number of votes shall be nominated.
- d. Biographical sketches and indications of the candidates' willingness to serve shall be secured by the district secretary. The consent to serve includes the agreement to relocate, if necessary, to fulfill the requirements of the office.

Selection

- a. At a regional caucus held at the district convention, each voting delegate of the region shall be entitled to cast a ballot for two (2) of the candidates nominated.
- b. There shall be no additional nominations from the floor;
- c. The first candidate to receive a majority of the votes cast shall be declared selected; if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, see D2.125;
- d. All regional selections shall be subject to ratification by the entire convention;

D2.134 ELECTION AND RANKING OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

After the election of the vice-presidents by ratification by the entire convention, they shall be ranked (1st, . . . 5th) by a separate ballot on which each delegate shall vote for two (2) candidates for first vice-president. The candidates shall be ranked in the order of the number of votes each receives. A tie vote shall be decided by a succeeding ballot.

D2.135 REGIONS OF THE DISTRICT

- a. For the purpose of electing representatives to the board of directors, the district shall be divided into five (5) regions. These regions shall consist of:
Region I - North Atlanta, South Atlanta, East Central Georgia, and NE Georgia Circuits
- b. Region II - Tallahassee, First Coast, and North Central Florida Circuits
- c. Region III - Orlando East, Orlando West, Space Coast, , and Winter Haven Circuits
- d. Region IV - Suncoast, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Sarasota, and Southwest Circuits
- e. Region V - Treasure Coast, South Palm Beach, Gold Coast, Heartland, and Monroe-Miami-Dade Circuits
- f. Additional Circuits which may be formed shall be assigned to a Region by the convention.

D2.136 SELECTION OF REGIONAL LAY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a. Nominations for regional lay representatives on the board of directors shall be made by member congregations of each region no later than ninety (90) days prior to the start of the convention. The district secretary shall call for nominations at least 180 days prior to the start of the convention.
- b. Any congregation within a region may nominate two (2) individuals to be regional lay representative to the district board of directors. Congregations may nominate candidates from any congregation in the region.
- c. Nominations shall be sent to the district secretary, and shall contain biographical information and church work experiences, as well as an indication of the individual's willingness to serve if elected
- d. At the regional caucus to select lay representatives
 1. There shall be no additional nominations from the floor;
 2. Two (2) lay persons from the region shall be selected;
 3. Only one (1) lay representative may be selected from a congregation.
 4. All regional selections shall be subject to ratification by the entire convention.

D2.143 DUTIES OF COMMITTEE FOR NOMINATIONS

- a. At least 180 days before an election convention, the committee for nominations shall, through the district secretary, request the voting congregations of the district to submit suggestions for nominees for the following offices: district secretary; members of the board of directors who are ministers of religion, commissioned; the district committee for nominations; and/or others not covered by specific rules and regulations.
- b. A special form for information concerning the nominees shall be included. (See Suggested Information Sheet, D2.144.)
- c. The nominations shall be sent to the secretary of the district, who shall forward them to the committee for nominations. As nominations are received, the chairman of the committee shall notify all nominees with the request that they state their willingness to serve in the event of their election. The committee for nominations shall do the actual selecting of the nominees from

those who have indicated their willingness to serve. A declaration of a willingness to serve does not guarantee nominating.

- d. Forms on which nominations are to be made shall be available also at the convention, to be signed by persons making such nominations. Nominations shall be called for at the beginning of the morning session of the first day of the convention, and the completed forms must be submitted no later than 10:00 A.M. of the same day. Elections may take place in the afternoon session of that day or at the direction of the chair.
- e. When nominations are made from the floor, the Committee for Nominations shall require that consent and biographical data be provided for anyone being nominated by the delegate offering the nominations.
- f. The committee for nominations shall furnish information concerning nominees and candidates for which they are responsible. This information shall be distributed according to the provisions of D2.121 k.

D2.144 SUGGESTED INFORMATION SHEET

In the nominating of ministers of religion, ordained or commissioned, and lay persons for a district office, information concerning them shall be made available at the elections of the district convention. The following information should be included in the information furnished:

- a. General information (ministers of religion, ordained or commissioned; lay persons)
 1. Name and address
 2. Age
 3. Present congregation
 4. Number of years in the district
 5. Present incumbent
 6. District offices previously held
 7. Office to which nominated
- b. Additional information (minister of religion, ordained)
 1. Former pastorates
 2. Year of ordination
- c. Additional information (lay person)
 1. Congregational offices held
 2. Formal education
 3. Business Occupation (past, present)
 4. Employed/Retired
 5. Former congregations and offices held there
- d. Additional information (minister of religion, commissioned)
 1. Years in office
 2. Former services rendered

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

D3.04 TIME OF ELECTION

The election of district officers, board members, and committee and commission members shall take place at a regular convention of the district.

D3.09 RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE

The pastor and accredited lay delegate of each voting congregation in the district shall be entitled to vote. If a pastor serves two (2) or more congregations, these shall be regarded as one (1) parish and shall be entitled to only one (1) lay vote.

DISTRICT OFFICERS

D3.31 ELIGIBILITY

All officers, board members, commission members and members of committees shall be members of voting congregations and shall have been active in the district for at least one (1) year. The one (1) year limitation shall not apply to the office of district president, district vice president, district secretary, and circuit counselor (Synod Bylaw 4.3.1).

D3.61 THE RATIFICATION OF CIRCUIT COUNSELORS

The ratification of the circuit counselors shall take place after the election of the president, vice-presidents, and secretary, according to the provisions of the Bylaws of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

DISTRICT MISSIONS

D8.26 ESTABLISHMENT OF MISSIONS

It is the purpose of the district to assist and encourage the congregations of the district in carrying out a sustained and aggressive program of mission outreach. To that end, the board of directors shall see that such resources are provided to the congregations of the district as they are available and deemed appropriate.

D9.15 CHURCH EXTENSION FUND PROGRAM

- a. All Church Extension Fund activity shall be handled through the district's membership in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod.
- b. Church Extension Fund activity shall be governed by the policies and procedures of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod.
- c. The board of directors shall elect a person holding membership in a congregation of the district to serve as a vice-president—LCEF with responsibility for promotion and administration of Church Extension Fund activities in the district.
- d. The board of directors or its assigns shall review and allocate district LCEF loan funds for all requests for Church Extension Fund loans from eligible borrowers in the district.
- e. The board of directors or its assigns in consultation with the division for outreach or its assigns shall review and endorse all purchases of advance sites for future ministries.

D16.01 AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Changes in the Bylaws and additions thereto may be made, provided they are:

- a. Not contrary to the Charter of the district, or the Constitution of the Synod;

- b. Presented in writing to the board of directors; the district secretary shall forward proposed bylaw amendments the Commission on Constitutional Matters for review and approval prior to their being considered by the district convention (Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.23 [a]);
- c. Separately considered and acted upon;
- d. Passed by a majority of the voting delegates in convention assembled.

Bylaws revised on the basis of the actions of the 2012 Convention of The Florida-Georgia District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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Daniel J. Reichard
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John Elliott
Finance & Administration

Governance Committee

Delegates to the Thirty-Second Convention of the Florida – Georgia District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On the following pages are proposed changes to the Charter and By Laws of the District. The process of approval for these documents requires that they first be reviewed by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters. Also, in the case of the Charter, Congregations of the District have a 60-day period to object to any proposed change to the Charter. We do not expect these criteria to be met prior to our Convention.

Our plan is to use this workbook and the Convention to brief the delegates on the proposed changes. Once the conditions required prior to a vote have been met, the Board plans to call a special meeting of the delegates to this Convention (whose term is until the next Convention) to approve the changes to the Charter and By Laws by mail vote.

The Governance Committee will be available to answer questions about these changes at the Convention. In His name,

William H. Gaik
Chairman, Governance Committee

THE CHARTER AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

Article I

The name of this corporation shall be “The Florida-Georgia District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, ~~incorporated.~~”

The principal business office of this corporation shall be located in ~~Metropolitan~~ Orlando, State of Florida.

Article II

The general nature of the object of this corporation is:

- a. To unite in a corporate body the congregations holding membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (also referred to herein as “Synod”), by and through The Florida-Georgia District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod~~the Florida-Georgia District.~~
- b. Receive, acquire, hold, manage, and control real and personal property of whatever description and such other property as may hereafter be acquired.
- c. To promulgate the Gospel throughout the world, and specifically to establish and maintain missions, educational, and charitable institutions.
- d. This corporation shall have power and authority in its corporate name to contract, sue, and be sued; to use a corporate seal; to have, receive, hold, purchase, convey, mortgage, and lease property, both real and personal; and to make and establish laws, rules, and regulations for its management and support as shall be necessary and proper.

Article III

Membership in this corporation is held and may be acquired by congregations, ministers of religion—ordained, and ministers of religion—commissioned, as defined by the Constitution and Bylaws of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, who confess and accept the confessional basis of Article II of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and who have been received into the district at the time of joining the Synod, who have been transferred from another district, or who have been assigned to the district by the Synod.

Article IV

The term for which this corporation is to exist is perpetual.

Article V

Section 1

The affairs of the corporation are to be managed by the following officers, to wit:

- A president
- A first vice-president
- A second vice-president
- A third vice-president
- A fourth vice-president
- A fifth vice-president
- A secretary
- A treasurer

And such other officers as the Bylaws may provide.

Section 2

The board of directors shall consist of the following:

- a. Elected at large: the president, the secretary, and three (3) ministers of religion, commissioned, who are members of the Synod. They must be or be willing to become resident members of a congregation within the district.
- b. Selected on a regional basis and elected by ratification by the district convention: five (5) vice-presidents who are ministers of religion, ordained, and members of the Synod. They must be or be willing to become resident members of a congregation within the region they represent.
- c. Selected on a regional basis and elected by ratification by the district convention: ten (10) lay persons who are resident members of a congregation within the region they represent.
- d. Elected by the board of directors: the treasurer, who is a resident member of a congregation within the district.

Section 3

The officers and the board of directors shall be elected at a regular meeting of the corporation by the delegates constituting the same as provided for in the bylaws, with the exception that the treasurer shall be elected by the board of directors at its next regular meeting following the election meeting of the corporation. All officers shall hold their respective offices for a term of three (3) years, and shall assume office at the time specified in the bylaws.

Section 4

Whenever an officer or director shall cease to be a resident member of a congregation within the corporation, or within the region he or she represents, he or she shall cease forthwith to be an officer or a director of this corporation.

Article VI

The Bylaws of this corporation are to be made, altered, or rescinded by the members of the corporation at any special or regular meeting of this corporation, provided the same are not inconsistent with this Charter, or with the laws of the land, or with the existing Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

~~Article VII~~

~~The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which this corporation may at any time subject itself shall be two thirds of the market value of all corporate assets.~~

~~Article VIII~~

~~The highest amount in value of the real estate which this corporation may hold shall be \$100,000,000.00.~~

Article ~~XVII~~

The voting power of this corporation shall be exercised by the accredited clergy and lay delegates of the congregations constituting its membership, each congregation being entitled to one (1) clergy and one (1) lay vote. Parishes in which two (2) or more congregations are served by the same pastor shall be restricted to one (1) lay vote and one (1) clergy vote.

Article ~~XVIII~~

Section 1

The board of directors shall have power to buy, sell, lease, mortgage, hypothecate property, whether movable or immovable, borrow, issue bonds, notes, and pledges of all kinds, and generally to manage and control the property and the secular and business affairs of this corporation, and shall do all things necessary to promote the objects and purposes of this corporation as set forth in Article II.

Section 2

Vacancies in the board shall be filled by it at its next regular meeting or at a special meeting held for that purpose.

Section 3

A majority of the members of the board, each of whom must be personally present at the meeting, shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

Section 4

All citations or any other legal process shall be served on the Registered Agent ~~president~~ of

this corporation, or, in his/her/its absence, upon the president, the respective vice-president, or, in their absence, upon the secretary.

Article ~~IX~~

This corporation shall meet triennially in the year prior to the regular convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In cases of urgent necessity, the district president is empowered to convene special sessions of the district; he must, however, previously have obtained consent of at least a majority of the voting members of the district, after having informed them and the President of the Synod of the purpose of the intended special session.

Article X~~H~~

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended at any regular or special meeting of this corporation, provided such amendment, or amendments, are not inconsistent with Article II or Article III of this charter, or with the laws of the state of Florida, or with the existing Constitution, Bylaws and resolutions of the Synod, and provided such amendment, or amendments, are approved by a majority vote of the members present at such meeting, and provided further that a copy of the proposed amendment, or amendments, shall have been forwarded previously to the Commission on Constitutional Matters of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for their review and approval, and to all congregations constituting the membership of the corporation at least sixty (60) days prior to such meeting. Such amendments become effective within sixty (60) days unless more than one-third of the congregations of the district send written dissent to the secretary of the district. Should this occur, the matter is referred to the board of directors. If the board of directors determines that the provisions of this article (Article XII) have been met, the amendment will become effective no later than 120 days from its passage at the convention.

Article XI

In the event this corporation is dissolved or its existence otherwise terminates or is terminated, after the payment of the debts of the corporation, all right, title, and interest in and to its property, whether tangible or intangible and whether real or personal, shall thereupon automatically vest in or be transferred to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a Missouri Corporation, or its successor, and this corporation covenants and agrees to execute and deliver to the Synod such documents and instruments and to take such other and further actions as the Synod may deem reasonably necessary or desirable, in order to evidence and give full effect to the foregoing. This provision may not be altered or deleted without the approval of the Synod in convention or the Board of Directors of the Synod.

If, however, on the date of such proposed dissolution, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, a Missouri Corporation, or its successor, is no longer in existence, the assets of the corporation may distributed to any other Section 501(C)(3) organization as designated by the board of directors.

BYLAWS TO THE CHARTER OF THE FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD, INC.

PREAMBLE

The Florida-Georgia District [of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod](#), though an independent corporation under the laws of Florida, adopts and holds as its own the Constitution of its parent body, viz: The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. It shall do all in its power to promote the Synod's aims and purposes, and shall be subject to all [applicable](#) general rules and regulations of the Synod. For the more efficient execution of its own local affairs, the district adopts the following rules and regulations as Bylaws to its legal Charter:

VISION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod grows out of God's merciful mission to a sinful and hurting world. This mission centers on Jesus, the crucified and risen Christ, whose ministry continues among us to bring life and healing to the world today. The Holy Spirit, who creates and sustains one, holy, catholic and apostolic church of Christ, seeks to guide all that this church does in His name to the glory of God the Father.

Within this fellowship, Christians are called to love each other with the love of Christ and to work together in a trust that is established by His Grace. Called by His Spirit into this fellowship, all of God's people are sent back into the world to share the Good News of God's redeeming love and grace for all people.

As individual congregations, the Body of Christ in our various locales, we recognize that by working together we can assist one another in love and trust to accomplish more effectively this mission and ministry of the whole church. Therefore, we joyfully and freely commit ourselves to the following Bylaws and we hold ourselves accountable to the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, a corporate servant structure, whose purpose is to serve, assist, and encourage congregations, church workers, and leaders, expanding God's mission and ministry.

Since God's mission and ministry occur through local congregations, and it is our desire that every congregation be a church in mission; and every man and woman a missionary, all working together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, empowered by His Gospel, to share his Love. Therefore the Vision of the Florida-Georgia District is: Every member. . . Equipped, Empowered, Engaged. . .Connecting People to Jesus.

D1.~~0401~~ VOTING DELEGATES

Pastors and lay delegates of congregations holding voting membership, as specified in Article IX of the Charter, shall be voting delegates. The lay delegates shall be district representatives to their respective congregations between conventions.

D1.~~0602~~ ADVISORY MEMBERS

The following ministers of religion, ordained or commissioned, who hold membership in the

Synod through the district shall be regarded as advisory members with full freedom of speech in district conventions:

- a. Pastors whose congregations do not hold membership in the Synod;
- b. Assistant pastors;
- c. Ministers of religion, ordained, not in charge of congregations;
- d. Ministers of religion, commissioned, called to serve in our Lutheran schools;
- e. Ministers of religion, commissioned, called to serve in full-time church work;
- f. Deaconesses;
- g. Parish assistants;
- h. Certified lay ministers;
- i. Candidates for the ministry of religion, either ordained or commissioned.

D1.0703 DUTIES OF ADVISORY MEMBERS

Advisory members, though not entitled to vote or hold office except as hereafter specified, shall be eligible to serve on advisory councils and task forces or in other capacities, as directed by the district. Ministers of religion, commissioned, holding membership in voting congregations who are on the roster of the Synod shall be eligible for membership on the board of directors.

D1.048 NON-VOTING CONGREGATIONS

Non-voting congregations are encouraged to send representatives to the district convention and to become members of the Synod. Such representatives may be given the privilege of the floor at the discretion of the presiding officers, but may not vote or serve on any committee.

D1.5305 DELEGATES TO SYNODICAL CONVENTIONS

- a. Each electoral circuit of member congregations shall elect one (1) pastoral and one (1) lay delegate.
- b. One (1) advisory delegate shall be elected for every sixty (60) advisory ordained ministers and specific ministry pastors, and one (1) advisory delegate for every sixty (60) commissioned ministers on the roster of the Synod. Fractional groupings shall be disregarded except that each district shall be entitled to at least one (1) advisory delegate in each category.

D2.01 ELECTIVE OFFICERS

The elective officers of the district shall be:

- a. The president - minister of religion, ordained, a member of a voting congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
- b. Five (5) vice-presidents – ministers of religion, ordained, and members of voting congregations;
- c. One (1) ~~circuit visitor~~ counselor for each visitation circuit - pastor of a voting congregation, or a retired minister of religion ordained, who is a member of a voting congregation;
- d. A secretary - minister of religion, ordained, a member of a voting congregation;
- e. A treasurer - lay member of a voting congregation (elected by the board of directors).

D2.0302 ELECTIVE BOARD ~~AND~~, NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND LOAN COMMITTEE OF THE DISTRICT

- a. The elective board of the district shall be the board of directors composed of:
 1. The president;
 2. The five (5) vice-presidents;
 3. The secretary;
 4. The treasurer, a resident member of a congregation within the district;
 5. Three (3) ministers of religion, commissioned, who are members of the Synod;
 6. Ten (10) lay persons, resident members of congregations within the district, elected on a regional basis.
- b. The ~~elective-nominating~~ committee of the district shall be a committee for nominations, composed of two (2) ministers of religion, ordained, four (4) lay persons, and two (2) ministers of religion, commissioned.
 1. Each region of the district shall be represented on the committee.
 2. The term of office shall be three (3) years.
 3. Committee members shall not succeed themselves.
 4. In the event that a member of the committee for nominations is unable to serve, the district board of directors shall appoint a replacement from the same region and the same classification.
- c. The loan committee of the district shall be a committee for reviewing loan applications for real property and improvements thereon within the district; and shall consist of the president of the district, the chairman of the board of directors, a minister of religion, ordained (as recommended by president of the district), and not less than four (4) nor more than six (6) members as recommended by the vice president-LCEF for the district. (Such member recommendations being subject to ratification by the board of directors at the first meeting of the triennium.) The duties of the loan committee shall be:
 1. Review for approval all new, renewal and modified loan requests and, when applicable approve said loan request up to the loan committee's approval authority of \$500,000.
 2. Review for approval and recommendation to Lutheran Church Extension Fund ("LCEF") all new, renewed and modified loan request where total borrower request exceeds the loan committee's approval authority of \$500,000.
 3. Review monthly the status of all loans, which have been criticized, classified, or determined to be impaired whether internally, by LCEF or by regulators, as the case may be.
 4. Review monthly the status of all real estate or other assets acquired through foreclosure.
 5. Review month end delinquent loan reports on loans that are thirty (30) days or more delinquent.
 6. In the event that a member of the loan committee is unable to serve, the loan committee shall appoint a replacement. The member filling the vacancy shall continue to serve on the loan committee for the remainder of the former member's term.

D2.0503 APPOINTIVE OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEES

The president may appoint the following officials and committees:

- a. A committee on registration, credentials, and attendance, composed of:
 1. One (1) minister of religion, ordained, pastor of a voting congregation;
 2. One (1) lay person, member of a voting congregation;
 3. One (1) minister of religion, commissioned, member of a voting congregation.
- b. A committee on housing, composed of:
 1. One (1) minister of religion, ordained, pastor of a voting congregation.
 2. One (1) lay person, member of a voting congregation;
 3. One (1) minister of religion, commissioned, member of a voting congregation.
- c. A judge of elections, who is to be the pastor of a voting congregation, for whom the district shall furnish adequate clerical assistance.
- d. A committee on conference essays and minutes, composed of:
 1. One (1) minister of religion, ordained, pastor of a voting congregation;
 2. One (1) lay person, member of a voting congregation;
 3. One (1) minister of religion, commissioned, member of a voting congregation.
- e. Convention reviewing committees and floor committees for the processing of reports and overtures, as determined to be necessary by the president.
- f. A district archivist.

D2.0604 TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for all officers and the board of directors shall be three (3) years. All officers and the board of directors shall begin their term of office at the time specified in these Bylaws. No individual shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms in any one (1) elective office, except that the president and the district treasurer shall be eligible for four (4) consecutive terms of office. Any person elected hereunder shall serve until his/her expiration of term, including any reelection up to term limits, his/her replacement has been elected, his/her resignation, his/her relocation to another district, his/her relocation to another region within the district, or in the event the board member dies prior to his/her expiration of term of election. his replacement has been elected.

D2.0705 TRANSITION OF ADMINISTRATIONS

- a. The president, vice-president, secretary, and all members of the board of directors (except the treasurer) shall assume office on the last Sunday of the month following their election. The treasurer shall be elected at the first meeting of the board of directors following its assuming office and shall take office immediately following the election.
- b. Before his successor assumes office, the outgoing president shall use the intervening time to transfer the affairs of his administration and assist the newly elected president as requested to become acquainted with the responsibilities of the office.
- c. The existing board of directors shall continue to function until the newly elected and re-elected members take office. They shall continue to carry out programs initiated prior to the electing convention of the district.

- d. No appointments shall be made and no new programs shall be initiated by the outgoing president or the board of directors during the interim between the convention and the time the newly elected president and the board of directors takes office. Emergency action that demands immediate attention shall be taken in consultation with the newly elected president. In advising congregations in the calling of a pastor, the outgoing president shall seek the concurrence of the newly elected president.
- e. In the interim, the newly elected president shall meet with the members of the district staff and the new board, to assess the state of the district, to plan for the communication and carrying out of the resolutions of the district convention, and to gather names and obtain information helpful for making wise appointments.
- f. The newly elected members of the board of directors shall attend whatever meetings are held in the interim, without vote, to become acquainted with their new responsibilities and board functions
- g. If the president does not stand for re-election for any reason or because he either fails of nomination or election, before reaching retirement age, he shall continue to receive a full salary to the end of the calendar year, unless he accepts another position. In the event he tenders his resignation prior to the completion of the term of office to which he has been elected, he shall be continued at full salary for a minimum of three (3) months, unless he declines such remuneration or has accepted another position. Any extension of support beyond three (3) months' time shall be determined by the board of directors.

D2.0806 DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The duties of all officers, the board, committees, or commissions, elected or appointed, as well as duties of all employees of the district, shall be those outlined in the District Handbook, or established by regulations adopted by the district or expressed in the Constitution, Bylaws and resolutions of the Synod.

D2.1307 ACCOUNTABILITY

The board of directors, all officers, and the elected committee for nominations shall be accountable to the district for all their transactions.

D2.1608 VACANCIES

All vacancies shall be filled according to [these Bylaws provided the method of filling vacancies is not contrary or inconsistent with the existing](#) regulations of the Synod. In case of a vacancy in the offices of secretary or treasurer, the vacancy shall be filled by the board of directors with the approval of the district president, as set forth in regulations pertaining to the respective office.

THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

D2.2909 RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The district president, in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod (Constitution Article XII and Bylaws section 4.4), shall supervise the doctrine, the life,

and the official administration of the ordained and commissioned ministers and the congregations of the district. He may call on the vice-presidents and circuit ~~counselors~~visitors to assist him.

- b. The district president may arrange for an official visit, or an investigation, even without formal request when any controversy arises in a congregation or between two (2) or more congregations in the district. He shall ask for a report on the case by the contesting parties in order that, by such a report, he may be enabled to have a clearer conception of the real situation. If he authorizes someone to represent him in such matters, his representative shall be accorded the same right.
- c. The district president may suspend from membership ordained or commissioned ministers for persistently adhering to false doctrine or for having given offense by an ungodly life.
- d. The district president shall be a full-time executive. He shall not be in charge of a congregation or hold a chair at any educational institution. He shall be the chief executive officer of the district and have supervision of all officers and employees of the district. He shall make regular reports to the district board of directors regarding the critical ministry targets and desired outcomes of the board of directors. He shall be responsible for carrying out the resolutions of the district.
- e. He shall cause the resolutions of the Synod to be implemented in the district, and he shall report regularly to the President of the Synod.
- f. He shall represent the Synod in connection with all ordinations, commissioning, and installations.
- g. He shall be responsible for maintaining the official roster of the district.
- h. He shall arrange an official visit to each congregation of the district at least once every three (3) years. He may call upon circuit ~~counselor~~visitors and vice-presidents to assist him.
- i. As often as possible, the district president shall attend conferences of pastors and teachers, advise congregations as to the calling of professional church workers, give counsel and respond to requests and inquiries.
- j. At the sessions of the district, the president shall conduct the meetings according to the accepted parliamentary rules and in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod and of the district.
- k. He shall be an ex officio voting member of all committees, and task forces of the district.
- l. He shall be responsible for drawing up and distributing the convention manual prior to a district convention.
- m. He shall sign all legal documents and instruments and shall perform all additional duties which the district places on him through its Bylaws, regulations, and by special resolution.

D2.~~33~~10 VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

- a. When a vacancy occurs in the office of the president and is officially declared so by the board of directors, the first vice-president shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if he consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.

- b. If the first vice-president declines, the second vice-president shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if he consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.
- c. If the second vice-president also declines, the third vice-president shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if he consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.
- d. If the third vice-president also declines, the fourth vice-president shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.
- e. If the fourth vice-president also declines, the fifth vice president shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.
- f. If the fifth vice-president also declines, the secretary shall be requested by the board of directors to assume the office; and if he consents, he shall be declared president by the board of directors.
- g. If the secretary also declines, the board of directors shall appoint an acting president. If less than one (1) year remains in the term of the president, the acting president shall remain in office until the next regular convention of the district. If more than a year remains, the board of directors shall call for nominations by the congregations of the district for candidates to fill the office of president and shall be empowered to elect a president from those five (5) candidates who have received the largest number of nominations and who have indicated a willingness to serve.

D2.~~34~~11 PERTAINING TO THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

- a. The vice-presidents shall be voting members of the board of directors.
- b. Vacancy in the Vice-Presidency
 - 1. A vacancy in the first vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the second vice-president.
 - 2. A vacancy in the second vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the third vice-president.
 - 3. A vacancy in the third vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the fourth vice-president.
 - 4. A vacancy in the fourth vice-presidency shall be filled by advancing the fifth vice-president.
 - 5. A vacancy in the fifth vice-presidency shall be filled by the board of directors which shall give consideration to the ballots cast in the preceding election.

THE DISTRICT SECRETARY

D2.~~40~~12 THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The secretary shall be a minister of religion, ordained, and a member of a voting congregation.

D2.~~42~~13 DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

- a. The district secretary shall perform the duties appertaining to that office.

- b. He shall keep a full and complete record of the business transacted by the corporation at all regular and special conventions and the meetings of the board of directors.
- c. He shall be the official correspondent of the corporation and the board of directors.
- d. He shall submit to the members of the board of directors copies of the minutes of the board.
- e. He shall send a report to all officers of the district and to all committees, and task forces of the district of the resolutions pertinent to them, or their work, enacted by the district at its convention or by its board of directors.
- f. He shall function, if appropriate, as an administrator in the dispute resolution process (Handbook of Synod [2010 edition] Bylaws 1.10.4a and 1.10.6.)
- g. He shall be responsible for carrying out the nomination procedures outlined in D2.127, D2.133, and D2.136 b., and according to the appropriate Synodical Bylaws (Handbook of Synod [2010 edition] Bylaw 4.7.). In addition, he shall solicit nominations for the offices indicated in D2.01, and shall then communicate these nominations to the committee for nominations.
- h. He shall publish the proceedings of the conventions of the district. He shall prepare the manuscripts, recording all resolutions in the wording in which they have been adopted, and publish the proceedings after the president of the district has approved.
- i. He shall, prior to the district convention, submit to the Commission on Constitutional Matters for their review, a copy of all anticipated corrections, additions, or deletions to or of the district bylaws.
- j. He shall, upon the close of the district convention, present a copy of all corrections, additions, or deletions to or of the district bylaws to the board of directors, and when prepared, provide an updated copy of the Articles of incorporation and Bylaws to the Office of the Secretary of Synod.

D2.4414 DUTIES OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

- a. An assistant secretary shall be a member of the board of directors, and appointed by the board with the approval of the district president.
- b. The responsibility of the assistant secretary shall be limited to the signing of official documents as authorized by the board of directors.
- c. Copies of such documents will be provided to the district secretary.

D2.4715 THE DISTRICT TREASURER

The district treasurer, elected by the board of directors (four (4) term limit), shall be responsible, either directly or through staff assistance, to the board of directors for the following:

- a. To prepare the district budget, realistically estimating income and expenditures;
- b. To report monthly to the board on the financial status of the district and provide an annual report to the district at the close of each fiscal year;
- c. To receive, record, and deposit all district moneys properly, in banks approved by the board of directors;
- d. To make ~~his district books~~ financial records available for audits authorized by the board;
- e. To disburse funds as authorized and in accordance with the district budget;

- f. To provide for the safe-keeping of all notes, deeds, and other official documents of the district;
- g. To ensure that all district officers and district staff (professional and clerical) handling district moneys are properly and adequately bonded;
- h. To arrange for the borrowing of moneys in the name of the district as authorized by the board of directors.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

D2.~~71~~16 MEMBERSHIP

- a. The board of directors shall consist of twenty-one (21) persons as follows: the district president; the five (5) vice-presidents; the district secretary; the district treasurer; ten (10) lay persons who are resident members of congregations within their respective regions of the district; and three (3) ministers of religion, commissioned, who are members of the Synod. The Executive Directors shall be advisory members of the board.
- b. Every member of the board shall be a member of a voting congregation of the district. When a member of the board ceases to be a member of a voting congregation of the district, he/she shall automatically lose membership on the board. Those members of the board of directors who are elected representatives for regions of the district shall cease to be members of the board if they are no longer a member of a congregation located in the region which they represent.

D2.~~72~~17 REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

Members of the board shall discharge their duties in good faith. The following are considered cause for removal pursuant to Synod Bylaw 1.5.7:

- a. Incapacity
- b. Breach of fiduciary responsibility
- c. Neglect or refusal to perform the duties of office
- d. No longer satisfying the qualifications for a director
- e. Conviction of a felony
- f. Failure to disclose conflicts of interest
- g. Conduct evidencing a scandalous life
- h. Advocacy of false doctrine, as per the confessional standard of the Synod (Constitution, Article II)
- i. Failure to honor and uphold the doctrinal position of the Synod
- j. Accumulation of three (3) unexcused absences within any term of office

D2.~~73~~18 VACANCIES

The board shall have power to fill all vacancies in its membership. The member thus appointed shall serve out the unexpired term of the person he/she succeeds.

D2.~~74~~19 OFFICERS

At the first meeting of the triennium, the board of directors shall elect one (1) of its members to

serve as Chairman. The secretary of the district shall function as the secretary of the board.

D2.~~75~~20 AUTHORITY

The board of directors, charged with the general management of the district's affairs, shall assume office at the time specified in Bylaw D2.~~07~~05.

D2.~~76~~21 ORGANIZATION

- a. Between conventions, the board of directors shall formulate policy and evaluate the programs designed to carry out the district's work in accordance with the rules and regulations of the district.
- b. The Executive staff of district (as more particularly defined by the President of the district) The Executive Directors of the Divisions for Congregational Services, School Ministries, Mission Outreach, and Administration, Finance, and Stewardship shall be advisory to the board and shall implement the programs and policies determined by the district in convention and by the board.

D2.~~77~~22 MEETINGS

- a. The board shall meet four (4) times a year at such time and place and in accordance with these bylaws.
- b. ~~and whenever the~~The president or at the direction of at least one-third of the members of the board of directors, may call other meetings, special or regular, as may be deemed #necessary.
- ~~a.c.~~Meetings may be held in person or by electronic means including, without any limitation, Skype, or its progeny, video conferencing, or by teleconference call.
- ~~b.d.~~_____ The majority of the voting membership of the board shall constitute a quorum provided that all members have been duly notified by mail or telephone as to time and place of meeting at least one week in advance.

D2.~~78~~23 AUTHORITY BETWEEN MEETINGS

Executive Committee

- a. At its first meeting the newly elected board shall elect from among its members an executive committee consisting of the district president, the treasurer, and three (3) additional members, at least one (1) of whom must be a minister of religion ordained and one (1) a member of the laity.
- b. Also, the chairman of the board shall be one (1) of the five (5) members of the executive committee.
- c. The committee shall have the authority to act for the board between meetings.

D2.~~79~~24 DUTIES

The duties of the board of directors shall be:

- a. To elect the treasurer;
- b. To call or appoint the executive directors of the district, and determine their length of service;
- c. To annually review the system for determining the compensation of all personnel

- salaries by the district;
- d. To hold in trust the properties of the district, with power to buy, sell, or hold properties of all types, in accord with the rules and regulations of the district;
 - e. To report to the district, through its president, at each convention of the district;
 - f. To adopt the annual budget, with powers of review and change as necessary, upon the advice of the district treasurer
 - g. To determine the validity of any appeal for funds within the district by organizations or groups inside or outside the district, but without restraining the Synod in any way;
 - h. To authorize the treasurer to borrow money necessary for the orderly operation of the district;
 - i. To indemnify members of the board of directors in accordance with the policies set forth in the board policy manual.
 - j. To conform its actions to all rules and regulations of the Synod and the district. Appeals may be made from the actions of the board to the district convention, and the action of the convention on such appeals shall be final.
 - k. To approve legal aspects of the corporation in compliance with all applicable laws.
 - l. To approve congregational constitutions and bylaws upon advice of the constitution committee and recommendation of the district president.
 - m. To appoint legal counsel.
 - n. To conduct an annual evaluation of the district president regarding his administrative performance.

D2.~~8025~~ EXPENSES

All expenses incurred by the board in carrying out its duties shall be paid by the district.

D2.~~9326~~ AUDITOR

All books and financial records of the district shall be audited at least annually by a certified public accountant or by CPA's of the Synod's Internal Audit Department as determined by the board of directors. A full report of such audit shall be submitted to the board, with a summary report made available to the district convention.

D2.~~11227~~ THE DISTRICT ARCHIVES AND ARCHIVIST

The district shall:

- a. Gather and preserve all historical matter of the district;
- b. Maintain a depository for these archives in a convenient place;
- c. Appropriate money in the annual budget for the expenses of such an archive and archivist;
- d. Keep pictures and biographies of all pastors and teachers who have served or are serving in the district;
- e. File the minutes of district conventions, pastors' and teachers' conferences, auxiliary organizations or conventions, and records of the district officers, boards and committees, when they are no longer needed.
- f. Index and file all material, and at the end of each calendar year, send a list of all material in or added to the archives to the Concordia Historical Institute;

- g. Appoint one (1) person in each circuit of the district to assist him/her in gathering material;
- h. Report annually to the board of directors and briefly to the district convention.
- i. The district archivist shall be appointed by the district president and serve at his pleasure.

SELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD

D2.~~121~~28 JUDGE OF ELECTIONS

- a. The president of the district shall appoint a judge of elections prior to the first session of the convention in which elections are to be held. The district shall supply adequate clerical assistance and the necessary equipment to prepare and tabulate ballots.
- b. Each ballot shall be headed "Official Ballot" plus the year in which the election is held.
- c. The ballots shall designate the office to be filled and the number of candidates to be voted for. The first ballot shall list in alphabetical order the names of the candidates to be voted for in each office or board, with the exception of the circuit ~~counselor~~visitors. On the second and subsequent ballots, the candidate having the largest number of votes shall be placed in first position, and so on.
- d. The ballot shall be prepared in such manner as to show clearly how the delegates are to indicate their votes.
- e. Ballots shall be distributed only to delegates properly identified and present on the convention floor or properly present in convention committee rooms.
- f. After the ballots have been distributed, no recess or adjournment shall be taken until the respective ballots have been collected.
- g. For the tabulation of votes: mechanical, electronic, or other equipment may be employed, but if manual counting of ballots becomes necessary the tabulation shall take place in the customary manner by at least one (1) reader and one (1) tabulator.
- h. Before announcing the names of the candidates elected, the judge of elections shall give copies of the tabulated votes to the chairman and the secretary of the convention. The tally of the votes cast for each candidate shall be announced after each ballot in all elections.
- i. In reporting the number of votes cast and the number of votes required for election, all ballots cast, except blanks, should be counted. A vote shall be credited to the name of the respective candidate if the meaning is clear and the intention of the voter can be established.
- j. All ballots, void or valid, shall be preserved by the judge of elections separately, according to the order of balloting, until the convention has been adjourned.
- k. At least two (2) hours prior to the distribution of each ballot, when necessary, the judge of elections shall distribute the information concerning the candidates which has been furnished him by the committee on nominations.
- l. Since it is not feasible for all candidates to be present at the convention, it shall be the policy not to introduce to the convention, in person, any candidate.

D2.~~125~~29 MAJORITY OF VOTES

A majority of all votes cast shall be required for election to all elective offices and other elective positions. Candidates receiving a majority on the first ballot shall be declared elected. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, balloting will proceed with the candidate receiving the smallest number of votes eliminated from consideration until one (1) candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, who shall be declared elected.

D2.~~127~~30 ELECTION OF THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Nominations

- a. Nominations for district president shall be made by member congregations through the district secretary and shall close ninety (90) days prior to the beginning of the convention. The district secretary shall call for nominations at least 180 days prior to the convention. Each congregation shall have the right to nominate two (2) candidates for the office of the presidency.
- b. The five (5) ministers of religion, ordained, receiving the highest number of nominations shall be considered candidates.
- c. Biographical sketches and indications of the candidates' willingness to serve shall be secured by the district secretary.

Elections

- a. Each voting delegate shall have one (1) vote and the candidate receiving the majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
- b. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, see D2.125.

D2.~~133~~31 PRIMARY ELECTION FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Nominations

- a. Nominations for regional vice-president shall be made from the clergy roster of Synod by member congregations of each region no later than ninety (90) days prior to the beginning of the convention. Nominees must be or be willing to become resident members of a congregation within the region they represent. The district secretary shall call for nominations at least 180 days prior to the convention.
- b. The member congregations of each region have the right to nominate two (2) ministers of religion ordained.
- c. In each region, the three (3) ministers of religion, ordained who receive the highest number of votes shall be nominated.
- d. Biographical sketches and indications of the candidates' willingness to serve shall be secured by the district secretary. The consent to serve includes the agreement to relocate, if necessary, to fulfill the requirements of the office.

Selection

- a. At a regional caucus held at the district convention, each voting delegate of the region shall be entitled to cast a ballot for two (2) of the candidates nominated.
- b. There shall be no additional nominations from the floor;
- c. The first candidate to receive a majority of the votes cast shall be declared selected; if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, see D2.125;
- d. All regional selections shall be subject to ratification by the entire convention;

D2.13432 ELECTION AND RANKING OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

After the election of the vice-presidents by ratification by the entire convention, they shall be ranked (1st, . . . 5th) by a separate ballot on which each delegate shall vote for two (2) candidates for first vice-president. The candidates shall be ranked in the order of the number of votes each receives. A tie vote shall be decided by a succeeding ballot.

D2.13533 REGIONS OF THE DISTRICT

- a. For the purpose of electing representatives to the board of directors, the district shall be divided into five (5) regions. These regions shall consist of:
Region I - North Atlanta, South Atlanta, East Central Georgia, and NE Georgia Circuits
- b. Region II - Tallahassee, First Coast, and North Central Florida Circuits
- c. Region III - Orlando East, Orlando West, Space Coast, , and Winter Haven Circuits
- d. Region IV - Suncoast, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Sarasota, and Southwest Circuits
- e. Region V - Treasure Coast, South Palm Beach, Gold Coast, Heartland, and Monroe-Miami-Dade Circuits
- f. Additional Circuits which may be formed shall be assigned to a Region by the convention.

D2.13634 SELECTION OF REGIONAL LAY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a. Nominations for regional lay representatives on the board of directors shall be made by member congregations of each region no later than ninety (90) days prior to the start of the convention. The district secretary shall call for nominations at least 180 days prior to the start of the convention.
- b. Any congregation within a region may nominate two (2) individuals to be regional lay representative to the district board of directors. Congregations may nominate candidates from any congregation in the region.
- c. Nominations shall be sent to the district secretary, and shall contain biographical information and church work experiences, as well as an indication of the individual's willingness to serve if elected
- d. At the regional caucus to select lay representatives
 1. There shall be no additional nominations from the floor;
 2. Two (2) lay persons from the region shall be selected;
 3. Only one (1) lay representative may be selected from a congregation.
 4. All regional selections shall be subject to ratification by the entire convention.

D2.14335 DUTIES OF COMMITTEE FOR NOMINATIONS

- a. At least 180 days before an election convention, the committee for nominations shall, through the district secretary, request the voting congregations of the district to submit suggestions for nominees for the following offices: district secretary; members of the board of directors who are ministers of religion, commissioned; the district committee for nominations; and/or others not covered by specific rules and regulations.
- b. A special form for information concerning the nominees shall be included. (See Suggested Information Sheet, D2.144.)

- c. The nominations shall be sent to the secretary of the district, who shall forward them to the committee for nominations. As nominations are received, the chairman of the committee shall notify all nominees with the request that they state their willingness to serve in the event of their election. The committee for nominations shall do the actual selecting of the nominees from those who have indicated their willingness to serve. A declaration of a willingness to serve does not guarantee nominating.
- d. Forms on which nominations are to be made shall be available also at the convention, to be signed by persons making such nominations. Nominations shall be called for at the beginning of the morning session of the first day of the convention, and the completed forms must be submitted no later than 10:00 A.M. of the same day. Elections may take place in the afternoon session of that day or at the direction of the chair.
- e. When nominations are made from the floor, the Committee for Nominations shall require that consent and biographical data be provided for anyone being nominated by the delegate offering the nominations.
- f. The committee for nominations shall furnish information concerning nominees and candidates for which they are responsible. This information shall be distributed according to the provisions of D2.121 k.

D2.14436 SUGGESTED INFORMATION SHEET

In the nominating of ministers of religion, ordained or commissioned, and lay persons for a district office, information concerning them shall be made available at the elections of the district convention. The following information should be included in the information furnished:

- a. General information (ministers of religion, ordained or commissioned; lay persons)
 - 1. Name and address
 - 2. Age
 - 3. Present congregation
 - 4. Number of years in the district
 - 5. Present incumbent
 - 6. District offices previously held
 - 7. Office to which nominated
- b. Additional information (minister of religion, ordained)
 - 1. Former pastorates
 - 2. Year of ordination
- c. Additional information (lay person)
 - 1. Congregational offices held
 - 2. Formal education
 - 3. Business Occupation (past, present)
 - 4. Employed/Retired
 - 5. Former congregations and offices held there
- d. Additional information (minister of religion, commissioned)
 - 1. Years in office
 - 2. Former services rendered

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

~~D3.0401~~ TIME OF ELECTION

The election of district officers, board members, and committee and commission members shall take place at a regular convention of the district.

~~D3.0902~~ RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE

The pastor and accredited lay delegate of each voting congregation in the district shall be entitled to vote. If a pastor serves two (2) or more congregations, these shall be regarded as one (1) parish and shall be entitled to only one (1) lay vote.

DISTRICT OFFICERS

~~D3.3103~~ ELIGIBILITY

All officers, board members, commission members and members of committees shall be members of voting congregations and shall have been active in the district for at least one (1) year. The one (1) year limitation shall not apply to the office of district president, district vice president, district secretary, and circuit [counselor/visitor](#) (Synod Bylaw 4.3.1).

~~D3.6104~~ THE RATIFICATION OF CIRCUIT [COUNSELORSVISITORS](#)

The ratification of the circuit [counselorsvisitors](#) shall take place after the election of the president, vice-presidents, and secretary, according to the provisions of the Bylaws of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

DISTRICT MISSIONS

~~D&D4.2601~~ ESTABLISHMENT OF MISSIONS

It is the purpose of the district to assist and encourage the congregations of the district in carrying out a sustained and aggressive program of mission outreach. To that end, the board of directors shall see that such resources are provided to the congregations of the district, as they are available and deemed appropriate.

~~D9D5.1501~~ CHURCH EXTENSION FUND PROGRAM

- a. All Church Extension Fund activity shall be handled through the district's membership in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod.
- b. Church Extension Fund activity shall be governed by the policies and procedures of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod.
- c. The board of directors shall elect a person holding membership in a congregation of the district to serve as a vice-president—LCEF with responsibility for promotion and administration of Church Extension Fund activities in the district.
- d. The board of directors or its assigns shall review and allocate district LCEF loan funds for all requests for Church Extension Fund loans from eligible borrowers in the district.
- e. The board of directors or its assigns in consultation with the division for outreach or its assigns shall review and endorse all purchases of advance sites for future ministries.

~~D16D~~6.01 AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Changes in the Bylaws and additions thereto may be made, provided they are:

- a. Not contrary to the Charter of the district, or the Constitution of the Synod;
- b. Presented in writing to the board of directors; the district secretary shall forward proposed bylaw amendments the Commission on Constitutional Matters for review and approval prior to their being considered by the district convention (Synod Bylaw 3.9.2.23 [a]);
- ~~c. Separately considered and acted upon;~~
- ~~d.c.~~ Passed by a majority of the voting delegates in convention assembled.

Bylaws revised on the basis of the actions of the [2012-2015](#) Convention of The Florida-Georgia District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.