

A NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT:

Overtures, sometimes called Memorials, are received from congregations, conferences and boards of the District. They are reviewed by the Floor Committee to which they have been assigned. The Floor Committee has the following options:

- To recommend acceptance of the Overture/Memorial to the Convention in the form of a Resolution
- To recommend declination of the Overture/Memorial
- To amend the Overture/Memorial and submit it to the Convention in the form of a Resolution
- To place the Overture/Memorial in Resolution A (referral to a board, commission or individual)
- To place the Overture/Memorial in Resolution B (there appears to be no valid reason to change or alter the existing position of the Synod)
- To place the Overture/Memorial in Resolution D (Overtures received as expressions of encouragement or gratitude)

Some of the Overtures/Memorials received prior to this 58th Convention of the Texas District contain inaccurate information and/or less than evangelical wording. Nevertheless, out of respect under our current Synodical polity for the right of a congregation to submit Overtures/Memorials, they are being printed as they were received in the Office of the District President.

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1 **OVERTURE 01-01-09**
2
3 **SUBJECT: TO UPDATE THE DISTRICT SUPPORT OF MISSIONS**
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5 WHEREAS, the 51st convention of the Texas District meeting in San Antonio adopted the following
6 resolution:
7
8 *"That the Texas District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod work to increase its funding*
9 *of the synodical program from its present 43% of District Budget to 45%..." (5-5-88) and,*
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11 WHEREAS, the continued growth of Texas and the attendant mission has made that resolution
12 unreasonable, with current synodical funding hovering around 25%, and
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14 WHEREAS, the Texas District Board of Directors is charged with reestablish[ing] the annual District
15 budget and manag[ing] the budgeted funds of the District as specified by District fiscal resolutions
16 (*Texas District By-Law 6.009 a.*) and
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18 WHEREAS, the members of The Texas District Board of Directors are in the best position to
19 determine how to allocate the unrestricted funds the district receives, and
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21 WHEREAS, the members of the Texas District Board of Directors has steadfastly sought to
22 maximize the dollars available to be sent to The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, while
23 maintaining a vigorous mission program here in Texas, therefore be it
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1 RESOLVED, that the relevant section of resolution 5-5-88 be vitiated, and be it further

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3 RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri
4 Synod be given the latitude to determine how much money can be sent to The Lutheran Church–
5 Missouri Synod; and be it finally

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7 RESOLVED, that the Texas District in convention thank the members of the Board of Directors for
8 their faithful service and encourage them to continue to balance Texas District mission opportunities
9 with our national and international missions carried on by The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.

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11 Peace Lutheran Church, Hewitt
12 Rev. Stephen Rynearson, Pastor

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15 **OVERTURE: 01-02-09**

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17 **SUBJECT: MEMORIAL TO SUPPORT THE *FRONTERA* MINISTRY**

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19 WHEREAS, the Frontera ministry began in 2001 as a movement to create a vibrant Lutheran
20 Border ministry along the United States and Mexico border, and

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22 WHEREAS, the mission statement was established as: Frontera Ministries is a partnership in Christ
23 that initiates and expands innovative Hispanic ministries that promote the planting of missions along
24 the US - Mexican border, and in our Districts; and

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26 WHEREAS, the Texas, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific Southwest Districts have joined together to
27 establish three Hispanic missionary training centers: Brownsville, Texas; El Paso, Texas; and San
28 Diego, California; and

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30 WHEREAS, the Frontera task force continues to work toward establishing effective models of
31 Gospel outreach to the ever-growing Hispanic population in the United States, be it

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33 RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Texas District communicate the ongoing activities of the
34 Frontera ministry to their members, and that congregations of the Texas District support the work of
35 the Frontera Ministry with time, talent and treasure, and be it finally

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37 RESOLVED, that the congregations and pastors of the Texas District work to identify, send, and
38 support church workers who can serve in a Hispanic ministry context.

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40 Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Irving
41 Rev. Eloy Gonzalez, Pastor

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44 **OVERTURE 01-03-09**

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46 **SUBJECT: MEMORIAL TO STUDY YOUR "FRONTERA"**

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48 Whereas, the frontera ("border" in the Spanish language) between the United States and Mexico is
49 a growing mission field, and

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51 Whereas, there are many "fronteras"-- geographically, socially, ethnically, spiritually, and
52 generationally in the Texas District of the LC-MS, and

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1 Whereas these "fronteras" present opportunities to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in new
2 and innovative ways, be it resolved

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4 That congregations study their "fronteras" to determine what opportunities for new Gospel outreach
5 exist in their communities, and
6 That congregations take action to reach across these "fronteras" with the Good News of Jesus
7 Christ.

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9 Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Irving
10 Rev. Eloy Gonzalez, Pastor

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13 **OVERTURE 01-04-09**

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15 **SUBJECT: MEMORIAL TO ENCOURAGE CROSS-CULTURAL CHURCH PLANTS**

16
17 WHEREAS, by 2013 fifty-five percent of the population of Texas will be a multi- cultural mix of
18 Hispanic, African American, Asian, and other ethnicities (numbering more than thirteen million
19 people), and

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21 WHEREAS, Texas District congregations, LINC organizations, and Mission Action Councils are
22 working to grow cross-cultural ministry outreach (currently numbering nearly 60 ministries), be it

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24 RESOLVED, that congregations of the Texas District work to start and support cross-cultural church
25 plants across the District that reach the growing multi-ethnic populations with the Gospel of Jesus
26 Christ.

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28 Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Irving
29 Rev. Eloy Gonzalez, Pastor

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32 **OVERTURE 01-05-09**

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34 **SUBJECT: MEMORIAL TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO USE**
35 **MISSIONINSITE**

36
37 WHEREAS, current demographic information can help a congregation understand trends that affect
38 its outreach, and

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40 WHEREAS, the Texas District provides congregations free access to the MissionInsite
41 Demographic service, and

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43 WHEREAS, the Mission and Ministry Facilitators of the Texas District are available to help
44 congregations use and understand this service, be it

45
46 RESOLVED, that congregations are encouraged to use the free demographic information from
47 MissionInsite, and be it

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49 RESOLVED, that congregations utilize the help of the Mission and Ministry Facilitators to access,
50 use and understand the data provided.

51
52 Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Irving
53 Rev. Eloy Gonzalez, Pastor

1 **OVERTURE: 02-01-09**

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3 **SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE THE STUDY OF EVERY SUNDAY COMMUNION**

4
5 WHEREAS, the center of life for the early church was the weekly gathering to hear the preached
6 Word and to receive the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20, 33); and

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8 WHEREAS, the Didache (an early church document) and Justin Martyr in his *First Apology* (chapter
9 14) describes Sunday worship with the Lord's Supper at the center; and

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11 WHEREAS, the weekly opportunity to commune was central to the reforms Luther made as he
12 sought to return to the worship practice of the Scriptures and the early church (*Small Catechism*,
13 Preface 21-23; LW 49:206); and

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15 WHEREAS, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession says, "In our churches Mass is celebrated
16 every Sunday and on other festivals, when the sacrament is offered to those who wish for it" (Ap
17 XXIV.I; cf. AC XXIV34); and

18
19 WHEREAS, there was a decreased value placed on the Lord's Supper during the eighteenth and
20 nineteenth centuries, especially because of Pietism and Rationalism, yet since the twentieth century
21 the trend has been to increase the frequency of Holy Communion from four to six to twelve to
22 twenty-four times a year to every Sunday communion; and

23
24 WHEREAS, in this heavenly meal the risen Christ is truly present to feed us with His very body and
25 blood and to forgive us (Matt 26:28; cf. Small Catechism, Part VI, *What is the benefit of such eating*
26 *and drinking?*); therefore be it

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28 RESOLVED, That the LCMS congregations of the Texas District be encouraged to study the
29 blessings of having both sermon and Supper together every Lord's Day.

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31 Faith Lutheran Church, Plano
32 Rev. James Woelmer, Senior Pastor

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35 **OVERTURE: 02-02-09**

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37 **SUBJECT: TO MEMORIALIZE SYNOD TO PROTECT AND FACILITATE THE DISSENT**
38 **PROCESS**

39
40 WHEREAS, the Constitution of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Article III Objectives (p. 11 of
41 the 2007 Handbook) states as the first objective that the Synod shall "Conserve and promote the
42 unity of the true faith," and "provide a united defense against schism, sectarianism, and heresy";
43 and

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45 WHEREAS, in the 2007 Handbook of the LC-MS, p.34, Article 1.8.2 of the Bylaws provides three
46 steps for how brotherly dissent is to be expressed, the third step being an "overture to the
47 convention calling for revision or rescision"; and

48
49 WHEREAS, following the 2004 Synodical Convention, there were several (approximately 30)
50 members of synod who entered into the process of public dissent over several issues; and

1 WHEREAS, several overtures were submitted by these public dissenters to the 2007 Convention for
2 consideration, being the third step of their dissent, and none were allowed by the floor committees
3 to make it to the floor of the convention as resolutions to be considered; and

4
5 WHEREAS, this amounts to a frustration and prevention of due process both in the objective of
6 synod to promote unity and in respect for brotherly dissent; therefore be it

7
8 RESOLVED, that the Texas District in Convention (2009) memorialize the Lutheran Church-Missouri
9 Synod (LC-MS) 2010 Synodical Convention to bring all issues in public dissent to the floor of the
10 convention for resolution; and be it finally

11
12 RESOLVED, that the Texas District in Convention (2009) memorialize the President of The
13 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS), Pres. Gerald Kieschnick, to instruct the floor committees
14 for the 2010 convention to include all overtures submitted, dealing with issues in public dissent, as
15 resolutions passed on to the floor of the 2010 convention.

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17 St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church U. A. C.
18 Edna

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21 **OVERTURE 02-03-09**

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23 **SUBJECT: TO ADDRESS SEXUAL PREDATORY BEHAVIOR IN THE CHURCH**

24
25 WHEREAS, all forms of sexual sin—especially evidenced in criminal, predatory behavior—are,
26 sadly, a common and growing reality in the world and even in the Church today; and

27
28 WHEREAS, it is also evident that Called Professional Church Workers are not immune to engaging
29 in this behavior; and ongoing and growing-need to provide education and training to raise
30 awareness of and ability to identify the characteristics and behavior patterns of sexual predators;
31 and

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33 WHEREAS, while there is a need to protect church workers from false accusation, there is also a
34 need to provide a system or structure to remove workers (rostered, lay, paid and/or volunteer) who
35 are guilty of predatory behavior—especially against children; and

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37 WHEREAS, we desire to put the best construction on everything, which can sometimes express
38 itself as the tendency to minimize, deny, or ignore the existence of sinful behavior; and

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40 WHEREAS, sexual predatory behavior normally includes manipulation that diffuses attention and
41 action, and ultimately perpetuates the abuse; and

42
43 WHEREAS, predatory behavior causes deep spiritual and psychological pain for the victims, their
44 families and congregations; therefore be it

45
46 RESOLVED, that this issue be thoroughly addressed in the colleges and seminaries of our Synod,
47 with the goal of greater vigilance toward prevention of sexual predatory behavior; and be it further

48
49 RESOLVED, that professional church workers receive annual education resources for continued
50 awareness of sexual predatory behavior and methodology; and be it further

51
52 RESOLVED, to offer support and spiritual care and other resources to the victims of abuse, their
53 families and congregations—especially when there are criminal judicial proceedings; and be it
54 further

1 RESOLVED, to develop a system and create an environment in congregations, Districts, and the
2 Synod at large, in which allegations of sexual predatory behavior are taken seriously, investigated,
3 and appropriate action is taken; and be it further
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5 RESOLVED, that professional church workers who do not take allegations seriously and take
6 appropriate action will be held accountable to their ecclesiastical supervisor; and be it finally
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8 RESOLVED, that the Texas District memorialize The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to adopt and
9 take similar action at its triennial Convention in Houston in 2010.
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11 Cross Lutheran Church & School New Braunfels
12 David Luckemeyer, President; Bob Tienor, Secretary

NOTE FROM THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Resolutions are submitted by the Floor Committee responsible for the area of mission of ministry to which the Resolution relates. They are submitted for consideration by the Convention delegates, who have the following options:

- To approve by majority the original Resolution as submitted by the Floor Committee
- To amend and then to approve the amended Resolution by majority vote
- To recommit the Resolution to the Floor Committee for reconsideration, redrafting, revision and resubmission to the Convention
- To decline by majority vote the Resolution as submitted by the Floor Committee, with or without amendment by the Convention
- To approve Omnibus Resolutions containing Overtures placed therein by the Floor Committees:
 1. Resolution A (referral to a board, commission or individual)
 2. Resolution B (there appears to be no valid reason to change or alter the existing position of the Synod)
 3. Resolution C (Overtures received as expressions of encouragement or gratitude)

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FLOOR COMMITTEE ONE - MISSION AND MINISTRY

RESOLUTION: 1-01-09

RE: OVERTURE 01-01-09

SUBJECT: TO UPDATE THE DISTRICT SUPPORT OF MISSIONS

WHEREAS, the 51st convention of the Texas District meeting in San Antonio adopted resolution 5-5-88: "To prioritize the use of the Synodical financial resources in favor of the seminaries", and

WHEREAS, the second resolved reads; *"That the Texas District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod work to increase its funding of the Synodical program from its present 43% of District Budget to 45%..."* (5-5-88) and,

WHEREAS, the continued population growth of Texas and the mission funding needed to reach out with the gospel to these new people renders the percentages in this resolved no longer applicable, and

WHEREAS, sixty-five percent (65%) of our current district budget supports synod and district missions, and

WHEREAS, our Lord has promised, ***"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you"***(Luke 6:38), therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, that the relevant section of resolution 5-5-88 be rescinded, and be it further

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3 RESOLVED, that all congregations of the Texas District be encouraged to continually increase their
4 support of the District/Synod Mission program, and be it finally

5

6 RESOLVED, that the Texas District in convention thank the members of the Board of Directors for
7 their faithful service and encourage them to continue to balance Texas District mission opportunities
8 with our national and international missions carried on by The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.

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10 Rev. Gil Franke, Chairman

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14 **RESOLUTION 01-02-09**

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16 **RE: OVERTURE 01-02-09**

17

18 **SUBJECT: MEMORIAL TO SUPPORT THE *FRONTERA* MINISTRY**

19

20 WHEREAS, the Frontera ministry began in 2001 as a movement to create a vibrant Lutheran border
21 ministry along the United States and Mexico border, and

22

23 WHEREAS, the mission statement was established as: "Frontera Ministries is a partnership in Christ
24 that initiates and expands innovative Hispanic ministries that promote the planting of missions along
25 the US - Mexican border, and in our Districts"; and

26

27 WHEREAS, the Texas, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific Southwest Districts have joined together to
28 establish three Hispanic missionary training centers: Brownsville, Texas; El Paso, Texas; and San
29 Diego, California; and

30

31 WHEREAS, the Frontera task force continues to work toward establishing effective models of
32 Gospel outreach to the ever-growing Hispanic population in the United States, therefore be it

33

34 RESOLVED, that the Texas District communicate the ongoing activities of the Frontera ministry to
35 their member congregations, and be it further

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37 RESOLVED, that the congregations of the Texas District be urged to share information about the
38 Frontera ministry with their members, and be it further

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40 RESOLVED, that congregations of the Texas District be encouraged to support the work of the
41 Frontera Ministry with time, talent and treasure, and be it finally

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43 RESOLVED, that the congregations and pastors of the Texas District work to identify, send, and
44 support church workers who can serve in a Hispanic ministry context.

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46 Rev. Gil Franke, Chairman

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RESOLUTION 01-03-09

RE: OVERTURE 01-03-09

SUBJECT: TO STUDY AND REACH ACROSS CONGREGATIONAL "FRONTERAS"

WHEREAS, the frontera ("border" in the Spanish language) between the United States and Mexico is a growing mission field, and

WHEREAS, there are many "fronteras"-- geographical, social, ethnical, spiritual, and generational in the Texas District of the LC-MS, and

WHEREAS, these "fronteras" present opportunities to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in new and innovative ways, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that congregations study their "fronteras" to determine what opportunities for new Gospel outreach exist in their communities, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to take action to reach across these "fronteras" with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Gil Franke-Chairman

RESOLUTION 01-04-09

RE: OVERTURE 01-04-09

SUBJECT: MEMORIAL TO ENCOURAGE CROSS-CULTURAL CHURCH PLANTS

WHEREAS, by 2013 fifty-five percent of the population of Texas will be a multi- cultural mix of Hispanic, African American, Asian, and other ethnicities (numbering more than thirteen million people), and

WHEREAS Texas District congregations, LINC organizations, and Mission Action Councils are working to grow cross-cultural ministry outreach (currently numbering nearly 60 ministries), therefore be it

RESOLVED that congregations of the Texas District be encouraged to start and support cross-cultural church plants across the District that reach the growing multi-ethnic populations with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Gil Franke-Chairman

1 **RESOLUTION 01-05-09**

2
3 **RE: OVERTURE 01-05-09**

4
5 **SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO USE "MISSIONINSITE"**

6
7 WHEREAS, current demographic information can help a congregation understand trends that affect
8 its outreach, and

9
10 WHEREAS, the Texas District provides congregations free access to the "MissionInsite"
11 Demographic service, and

12
13 WHEREAS, the Mission and Ministry Facilitators of the Texas District are available to help
14 congregations use and understand this service, be it

15
16 RESOLVED that congregations are encouraged to use the free demographic information from
17 "MissionInsite", and be it finally

18
19 RESOLVED that congregations utilize the help of the Mission and Ministry Facilitators to access,
20 use and understand the data provided.

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22 Rev. Gil Franke-Chairman

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26 **FLOOR COMMITTEE TWO - ADMINISTRATION /THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS**

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28 **RESOLUTION 02-01-09**

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30 **RE: OVERTURE 02-01-09**

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32 **SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE THE STUDY OF EVERY SUNDAY COMMUNION**

33
34 WHEREAS, scripture shows that two central parts of life for the early church were the gathering to
35 hear the preached Word and to receive the Lord's Supper; and

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37 WHEREAS, The weekly opportunity to commune was part of the reforms Luther made as he sought
38 to return to the worship practice of the Scriptures and the early church (*Small Catechism*, Preface
39 21-23; LW 49:206); and

40
41 WHEREAS, The Apology of the Augsburg Confession says, "In our churches Mass is celebrated
42 every Sunday and on other festivals, when the sacrament is offered to those who wish for it" (Ap
43 XXIV.I; cf. AC XXIV34); and

44
45 WHEREAS, In this heavenly meal the risen Christ is truly present to feed us with His very body and
46 blood and to forgive us (Matt 26:28; cf. *Small Catechism*, Part VI, *What is the benefit of such eating*
47 *and drinking?*); therefore be it

48
49 RESOLVED, That the LCMS congregations of the Texas District be encouraged to study the
50 blessings of having both sermon and Supper together every Lord's Day.

51
52 Paul Meyer, Chairperson
53 Doug Widger, Secretary

1 **RESOLUTION 02-02-09**

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3 **OVERTURE: 02-02-09**

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5 **SUBJECT: TO ENCOURAGE THE SYNOD TO RESPECT THE DISSENT PROCESS**

6
7 WHEREAS, the Synodical Handbook encourages a three step process of dissent, *"1.8.1 While retaining the right to brotherly dissent, members of the Synod are expected as part of the life together within the fellowship of the Synod to honor and uphold the resolutions of Synod."*

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11 *"1.8.2 Dissent from doctrinal resolutions and statements is to be expressed first within the*
12 *fellowship of peers and then brought to the attention of the Commission on Theology and Church*
13 *Relations before finding expression as an overture to the convention calling for revision or rescision.*
14 *While the conscience of the dissenter shall be respected, the conscience of others, as well as the*
15 *collective will of the Synod, shall be respected." and,*

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17 "WHEREAS, the Synodical Handbook 3.1.7 calls for "all reports and overtures accepted by the
18 President in accordance with the foregoing paragraphs shall be referred by him to convention
19 committees appointed to him in the name of the convention", and

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21 WHEREAS, there might be confusion as how to carry out and complete the process, therefore be it
22
23 RESOLVED, that the Synod be encouraged to be sensitive to all aspects of the dissention process,
24 especially with overtures to the convention.

25
26 Paul Meyer, Chairperson
27 Doug Widger, Secretary

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30 **RESOLUTION 02-03-09**

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32 **OVERTURE: 02-03-09**

33
34 **SUBJECT: TO ADDRESS SEXUAL PREDATORY BEHAVIOR IN THE CHURCH**

35
36 WHEREAS, all forms of sexual sin—especially evidenced in criminal, predatory behavior—are,
37 sadly, a common and growing reality in the world and even in the Church today; and

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39 WHEREAS, it is the case that Called Professional Church Workers are not immune to engaging in
40 or being victimized by this behavior; and

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42 WHEREAS, there is an ongoing and growing need to provide education and training to raise
43 awareness of an ability to identify the characteristics and behavior of sexual predators; and

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45 WHEREAS, the Council of Presidents is presently studying this matter, therefore be it

46
47 RESOLVED, that the Texas District in convention encourage the colleges and seminaries of our
48 Synod to include in their training a component which emphasizes recognition of sexual predatory
49 behavior, and be it further

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51 RESOLVED, that congregations be encouraged to offer support and spiritual care and other
52 resources to the victims of abuse, and their families, and be it finally

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54 RESOLVED, that the Council of Presidents be encouraged to continue their study regarding this
55 issue and how to bring this training to the district level.

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57 Rev. Paul Meyer, Chairman
58 Doug Widger, Secretary

