

Convention Overtures



Iowa District West

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Camp Okoboji

Milford, IA

June 24-26, 2018

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OVERTURE #1-01: To Develop a Mission Plan within Each Circuit

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, God's desire is that all be saved (1 Timothy 2:4 ESV) and this is only possible by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8 ESV); and

WHEREAS, Our Lord has directed His Church to *make disciples of all nations* (Matthew 28:19) and to *be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth* (Acts 1:8); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has as the structural foundation of its church body the gathering of baptized Christians into congregations to best carry out God's mission; and

WHEREAS, Each of the congregations of Iowa District West is surrounded by individuals who do not yet believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has made its number one mission priority to *plant, sustain and revitalize Lutheran churches*; and

WHEREAS, Congregations are organized into circuits *for the sake of greater congregational participation in God's mission* (Handbook, 2016, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, p. 188); and

WHEREAS, Iowa District West exists *to support Christ's mission* (Iowa District West mission statement); and

WHEREAS, *God is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the [His] power at work within us* (Ephesians 3:20); therefore be it

Resolved, That each circuit within Iowa District West convene by December 1, 2018 for the purpose of initiating discussion toward development of a comprehensive plan for the carrying out of God's mission within their circuit boundaries; and be it further

Resolved, That such plan include specific goals that are measurable and attainable, with accountability, and a time line; and be it further

Resolved, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Iowa District West, Recognized Service Organizations, and other mission partners be consulted and invited to participate in the process where beneficial and appropriate; and be it further

Resolved, That Iowa District West be tasked with developing and providing appropriate resources for such an effort and making them available to each circuit as desired; and be it finally

Resolved, That Iowa District West be tasked with sharing the plans of each circuit, including a status report at the 2021 District convention, for the purpose of encouragement and celebration over what God is able to do to enlarge His Kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Iowa District West

OVERTURE #1-02: To Develop Ethnic Leadership

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, God's mission in sending His Son is for *all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth* (1 Timothy 2:4 ESV); and

WHEREAS, We are given a glimpse in Revelation into the vision of God's mission being fulfilled where we read of *a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb* (Revelation 7:9 ESV); and

WHEREAS, There has been a dramatic increase in recent years in the number of individuals from other nations, tribes, peoples and languages that have been moving into Iowa District West; and

WHEREAS, Our congregations desire to carry out God's mission and reach out to these individuals but those efforts are hindered by cultural barriers, including language; and

WHEREAS, There is a shortage of capable and gifted ethnic leaders, both ordained/commissioned and lay; and

WHEREAS, Many of the programs for ethnic leadership development that are in place pose financial, language and geographic barriers; therefore be it

Resolved, That the people of Iowa District West (IDW) gathered in convention thank God for the opportunity presented by the influx of ethnic individuals and seek to welcome them in Christian love, remembering that many of our ancestors came to this country as immigrants; and be it further

Resolved, That the people of IDW seek to identify and support those individuals who would appear to be candidates for positions of leadership, both ordained/commissioned and lay; and be it further

Resolved, That IDW engage in discussions with The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, other Districts and appropriate organizations for the purpose of addressing the need to develop ethnic leaders; and be it further

Resolved, That IDW seek to identify and/or develop resources that can be used among the ethnic population for the making of disciples who are able to disciple others; and be it finally

Resolved, That IDW continue to offer financial support for the development of ethnic leaders.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Iowa District West

OVERTURE #1-03: To Facilitate Consistency in the Practice of Close Communion

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) practices close Communion which its Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) defines as follows in its 1999 document, [*Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper*](#):

In keeping with the principle that the celebration and reception of the Lord's Supper is a confession of the unity of faith, while at the same time recognizing that there will be instances when sensitive pastoral care needs to be exercised, the Synod has established an official practice requiring "that pastors and congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, except in situations of emergency and in special cases of pastoral care, commune individuals of only those synods which are now in fellowship with us." By following this practice whereby only those individuals who are members of the Synod or of a church body with which the Synod is in altar and pulpit fellowship are ordinarily communed, pastors and congregations preserve the integrity of their witness to the Gospel of Christ as it is revealed in the Scriptures and confessed in the Lutheran confessional writings (p. 22); and,

WHEREAS, The CTCR stresses in the same document the care that must be taken in the practice of close Communion:

As congregations practice close Communion, much care should be taken and energy expended in articulating the rationale of this practice. An evangelical and winsome effort should be made to present the Biblical claims, so that the church's posture does not appear to be a mere institutional accretion. Procedures for admitting guests to the Lord's Table should be such that the appearance of unknown communicants at the altar is minimized as much as possible (pp. 22-23); and,

WHEREAS, The same CTCR document reminds us of the important link between the practice of close Communion and faithful exercise of the Office of the Keys:

Further, the Office of the Keys is less than faithfully exercised when admission to the sacrament is granted to all who come to the altar regardless of their faith and congregational and/or denominational affiliation. The practice of "open" Communion renders it difficult, if not impossible, for church discipline to be exercised in a way that honors the ministrations being carried out by those to whom the responsibility of spiritual care for a member of God's flock has been entrusted (Heb. 13:17; cf. John 20:22-23; Acts 20:27-28; 1 Cor. 4:1 -2) (p. 23); and,

WHEREAS, The LCMS at its 2013 convention by a 78 percent margin passed resolution 4-10 in which it asked the Synod's president to work with district presidents to ensure better practice on this issue; and

WHEREAS, The CTCR adopted in December of 2014 and distributed Synod wide in 2015 *Guidelines for Congregational, District, and Synodical Communion Statements*, intended to guide the

drafting of Communion Statements for the faithful exercise of close Communion; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the president of Iowa District West be encouraged to address congregations' administration of the Lord's Supper in his visits; and be it further

Resolved, That the guidelines for Communion statements published by the CTCR be commended for study within the congregations of Iowa District West; and be it further

Resolved, That the district president direct the circuit visitors to facilitate discussions with the pastors in their respective circuits regarding their Communion statements and practices; and be it finally

Resolved, That those practices which are not in harmony with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions be addressed fraternally and evangelically.

Respectfully submitted,
Carroll Circuit Forum

OVERTURE #2-01: To Promote Church Worker Wellness

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, The Office of the Holy Ministry has been established by God so that man may receive faith from God through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments (AC V); and

WHEREAS, The men who hold this Office, as well as those workers who serve in other offices which support the Office of the Holy Ministry face significant stresses (physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual) as a result of their service; and

WHEREAS, Personal wellness directly impacts the abilities of these workers to fulfill their vocations; and

WHEREAS, Personal wellness can be influenced by such things as household finances, educational opportunities, interaction with and the support of peers, adequate time off work and the encouragement and support of congregational members; and

WHEREAS, The Iowa District West Compensation Recommendations outline appropriate compensation for church workers, including health care insurance coverage for workers and their families; therefore be it

Resolved, That congregations in Iowa District West be encouraged to promote and contribute to the comprehensive wellness of their church workers by ensuring that their church workers are allowed adequate time off to properly serve their vocations toward their families as outlined in the District Compensation Recommendations; and be it further

Resolved, That they be encouraged to follow all the guidelines for compensation and benefits as stated in the District Compensation Recommendations; and be it further

Resolved, That they be encouraged to provide the financial cost of continuing education, professional church workers' conferences, sabbaticals and other opportunities for professional enrichment and personal growth (e.g. Grace Place Retreat, Doxology, Concordia Plan Services Resources, Lutheran Family Service) while recognizing that these opportunities are working events and not vacation time; and be it finally

Resolved, That the President, Circuit Visitors, and Executives of Iowa District West faithfully encourage congregations to promote the comprehensive wellness of all their workers and families by inquiring about congregational support for these measures and fraternally addressing areas where such support is found to be lacking.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Iowa District West

OVERTURE #2-02: To Uphold the Sanctity of Life

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, The Holy Scripture clearly teaches that God is the Creator of the unborn (Job 10:8-12; Job 33:4; Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5) and that life and death belong to God (Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:13); and

WHEREAS, The sanctity of human life in our culture is imperiled with a secular mindset leading to legalized abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, cloning, embryonic stem cell research, and many other practices that are contrary to God's Word; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the churches of Iowa District West (IDW), and of our beloved Synod, is to proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to a world that is dying in sin and likewise to show mercy and compassion to those in need; therefore be it

Resolved, That the delegates of the 2018 IDW Convention give encouragement to the pastors and congregations, within and beyond our district, to show leadership in the area of Life Ministry, and to support all life affirming individuals and ministries who uphold the biblical teachings on the sanctity of human life; and be it finally

Resolved, That we extend our appreciation to Lutherans For Life, Lutheran Family Service and all Iowa District West pastors and congregations who humbly and boldly speak, teach, and preach God's Word in this area.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Iowa District West

OVERTURE #2-03: To Encourage Acts of Mercy

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, Our Lord demonstrated His unconditional love in coming to earth as a humble servant and giving His life as a ransom for all (Mark 10:45); and

WHEREAS, God's love in us is to be demonstrated in love toward others, both in word and deed (John 13:1-17, 15:12; 1 John 3:18); and

WHEREAS, Acts of Christian service afford opportunities to share the Word of God, by which God is able to give saving faith; and

WHEREAS, United acts of Christian service conducted by a local congregation, school, or other ministry pave the way for a congregation, ministry, or school to impact their community for Christ; and

WHEREAS, Acts of Christian service provide opportunity for Christians to practice Christ's unconditional love and share their faith in practical ways and have been shown to enrich the lives and faith of those who serve; and

WHEREAS, There are many institutions, agencies and other ministries in local communities that are actively engaged in attempting to address many human care needs; and

WHEREAS, One of the components of the current emphasis in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is “Mercy” (“Mercy, Witness, Life Together”) through which we bear witness to Christ and the love Christians have for their neighbor because of His mercy shown us on the cross; therefore be it

Resolved, That the congregations, schools, and other ministries of Iowa District West be encouraged to discern through prayer, conversations with local citizens and leaders, exploration of the internet (e.g. www.iowadatacenter.org) and other appropriate measures, the need and opportunities for Christian mercy in their local communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations, schools, and other ministries of Iowa District West be encouraged to partner where beneficial with other congregations, schools, and other ministries of Iowa District West and where appropriate and beneficial with existing institutions, agencies and other ministries in their local communities that are already addressing the area to which Iowa District West ministries are being led to serve; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations, schools, and other ministries of Iowa District West be encouraged to incorporate at least one intentional act of Christian mercy and, if appropriate, an ongoing response to the discovered opportunity into their annual ministry plans with the goal of serving especially the citizens and institutions of their local community; and be it further

Resolved, That the Human Care Committee of Iowa District West maintain on the District website a listing of appropriate resources to support such efforts; and be it finally

Resolved, That the congregations, schools, and other ministries of Iowa District West be encouraged to share through the District Human Care Committee stories of their efforts that it may encourage others to share the love of Christ in similar ways.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Iowa District West

OVERTURE #2-04: To Affirm and Support the Work of Lutheran Family Service

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, Evidence abounds of needs among children, teens, adults, marriages, and families beset by burdens they are no longer able to carry alone, of the consequences of sin, and the struggle to live in this increasingly anti-Christian culture which promotes a humanistic and secular rather than a scriptural basis for life, morality and decision making; and

WHEREAS, God calls us to look not just to our own needs but to the needs of others (Philippians 2:4), to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2), to bear the "fruit of light" through acts of mercy (Ephesians 5:9); to be "salt" and "light" in this dark world (Matthew 5:13-14), and to stand for His truth and against the devil's schemes (Ephesians 6:10); and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service (LFS) continues to build on its 117-year history of providing scripturally consistent counseling and care to pregnant women and their families at no cost, supporting only life-affirming options of parenting or adoption, and placement of children with Christian married male/female couples; and

WHEREAS, LFS continues to build on its 58-year history of providing scripturally consistent professional mental health, marriage and family counseling utilizing a sliding scale so all may receive service regardless of their ability to pay, as well as providing support for professional church workers and their families, including professional consultation at no cost for pastors dealing with challenging or complicated pastoral care cases; and

WHEREAS, LFS is expanding its efforts by training Iowa District West pastors and congregations to combat the destructive influence of our culture, providing outreach to and through our congregations focused on promoting God-pleasing decision making and life-style choices for young people; strengthening marriages and families, and supporting those who care for a dependent loved one; and

WHEREAS, In addition to these well-established and ongoing services, LFS has recently taken on an active role in advocating and teaching others to advocate for laws that support and value life at all ages and stages, providing a voice in the public square for the church, and for those without a voice who are vulnerable most at the very beginning and end of life; and

WHEREAS, LFS provides these services as an extension of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations in Iowa District West, through local Iowa support and without the use of state or federal government funding so as not to limit their intentionally Christ-centered message, ministry, and witness; and

WHEREAS, Each LCMS congregation in Iowa shares equal and joint ownership of LFS, a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS for pregnancy support, adoption services, marriage counseling, and mental health counseling; therefore be it

Resolved, That the pastors and members of our congregations be encouraged to partner with, support, and use the services provided by LFS and encourage others outside of our church family to do the same; and be it finally

Resolved, That each congregation be encouraged to provide consistent annual financial support (in an amount equal to 3% of its yearly budget) directly to LFS so that they can continue and expand their services in response to the increasing needs of individuals, couples, children and families throughout the state.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Iowa District West

OVERTURE #2-05: To Cease Activity Contrary to Scripture on the Concordia University Portland Campus

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, Scripture is clear in its condemnation of homosexual behavior (Rom. 1:24-27, 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:9-10; et al.), even calling it an “abomination” (Lev. 18:22); and

WHEREAS, Concordia University Portland (hereafter CUP), has been asked to charter the on-campus Queer Straight Alliance club; and

WHEREAS, One of the Queer Straight Alliance club’s stated goals is to “raise awareness and change perception of Christian folks”; and

WHEREAS, CUP, in August 2017, announced that “Concordia does not have a Title IX exemption, and does not have any plans to request one from the federal government”; and

WHEREAS, CUP, under the signature of President Charles Schlimpert, has, on 19 January 2018, announced that it has accepted the charter of the Queer Straight Alliance club; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod leadership be directed immediately to apply for a Title IX exemption; and be it finally

Resolved, That the charter of the Queer Straight Alliance club be revoked.

Respectfully submitted,
St John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church U. A. C.
Casey, Iowa

OVERTURE #3-01: To Encourage Fulltime Church Work as a Career

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a shortage of pastors. For some years now, the Council of Presidents has not been able to fill calls for new pastors from the seminaries because there have not been enough graduates from Master of Divinity programs to meet the needs (source: Concordia Journal, Summer 2017); and

WHEREAS, The consequences of this shortage are serious to the life of the Synod in many ways, especially because the shortage of pastors jeopardizes faithful pastoral care to people and thereby diminishes vitality and growth in congregations without a pastor (source: Concordia Journal, Summer 2017); and

WHEREAS, The continuing drop in the number of students pursuing church-work vocations at the Concordia Universities was identified as “a front-burner concern” with fall 2017 enrollment of church-work students among those studying to become pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education, lay ministers, and directors of family life ministry all down (source: LCMS Reporter Online, January 4, 2017); and

WHEREAS, Students pursuing church work vocations in the Concordia Universities decreased by 313 students from 2013 to 2018 (from 1,654 to 1,341) (source: Concordia University System Enrollment Report); and

WHEREAS, Our District is blessed with a substantial scholarship resource to financially assist students both during and after their formal studies to become fulltime church workers; therefore be it

Resolved, To encourage congregations to intentionally identify young people who appear to be candidates for fulltime church work and encourage them to pursue fulltime church work as a career; and be it further

Resolved, To encourage all individuals interested in pursuing fulltime church work to attend the Joy In Ministry Banquet; and be it further

Resolved, That the Assistant to the President with responsibility for education keep recruitment at the forefront in conversations with congregations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Financial Aid Committee of Iowa District West keep congregations informed of the resources available to students pursuing fulltime church work and the ways in which congregations can support students; and be it further

Resolved, That the District and congregations be financially supportive of continuing education for existing fulltime church workers; and be it finally

Resolved, That all members of congregations of Iowa District West be encouraged to pray that the Lord would call and equip fulltime workers for His church. As Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 9:37b-38, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Iowa District West

OVERTURE #3-02: To Encourage All Iowa District West School Boards to Invite the IDW Executive Assistant for Educational Services each Triennium for Board Training

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26-2018

WHEREAS, Iowa District West (IDW) has called an Executive Assistant (EA) for Educational Services; and

WHEREAS, The EA position description states the EA "will provide leadership to and assist congregations and schools in the areas of education..."; and

WHEREAS, The EA position description lists among authority and responsibility duties:

1. Provide leadership for educational services within Iowa District West;
2. Serve as coordinator of Lutheran elementary schools and facilitate relationships with federal, state and local education agencies;
3. Provide consulting services by visiting and networking congregations, schools and circuits for guidance and direction in Christian nurture and youth ministries;
4. Serve as a resource person and consultant with congregational Christian education agencies of the District, including day schools, preschools and home schoolers; and
5. Serve as a resource for accreditation needs, state guidelines and Iowa School Tuition Board; and

WHEREAS, Composition of school boards change; and

WHEREAS, State and federal regulations are constantly evolving, and new societal issues constantly present themselves; therefore, be it

Resolved, That IDW congregations in convention encourage all IDW school boards to schedule the IDW Executive Assistant for Educational Services to visit each triennium in order to lead each school board in appropriate training.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Iowa District West

Overture #3-03: To Celebrate and Give Thanks to God for the 125th Anniversary of Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, Since its founding On November 18, 1894, the Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska by empowering it to serve The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as an educational institution equipping students to learn, serve and lead in the Church and world; and

WHEREAS, The Lord of the Church led the founders of the University to provide the funds and land to locate the institution in Seward, Nebraska so that the institution would be a blessing to the local community, the Nebraska and surrounding Districts and the entire LCMS; and

WHEREAS, The Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska to be the leading preparer of fulltime workers in the ministries of the LCMS, as today it places more graduates into the commissioned teaching and Director of Christian Education ministries of the church than any other institution of the Concordia University System; and

WHEREAS, The Lord of the Church has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska to equip men for the pastoral ministry through its pre-seminary and other academic programs so that, historically, each year between 40 and 50 are involved in academic and spiritual preparation to study at an LCMS seminary with the result that seven (7) percent of those serving as pastors in the LCMS today are alumni of Concordia University, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, The God of all creation has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska with opportunities to equip students with a Lutheran Christian higher education for vocations of service in business, laboratories, hospitals, industry, courtrooms, government, the military, their home and the communities where they reside; and

WHEREAS, The God of all wisdom and knowledge has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska by enabling it to serve the Church and world through 110 undergraduate and graduate academic programs at its campuses in Seward and Lincoln, through its high school partners and online; and

WHEREAS, The God of service has blessed the Church and world through the more than 23,000 alumni, sainted and living, of Concordia University, Nebraska who have walked by faith and not by sight and the hundreds of gifted and faithful faculty and staff who served these men and women during their educational studies; and

WHEREAS, The God of abundance has blessed Concordia University, Nebraska through the tens of thousands of donors who have faithfully supported the University with their prayers, generous gifts and referral of students; and

WHEREAS, The God of grace and mercy continues to bless Concordia University with record numbers of undergraduate and graduate students-2,757 in 2016-17; therefore be it

Resolved, That the 2018 Convention of the Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pause from its regular business to offer special thanksgiving and praise to almighty God for His continued blessings on Concordia University, Nebraska and to commend its students, faculty, staff and administration to His continued providential care; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Iowa District West memorialize the LCMS at its July 2019 Convention to declare November 17, 2019, as a Synodwide “Concordia University, Nebraska Sunday,” encouraging and facilitating prayers, thanksgiving, offerings, gifts and student referrals to be given in celebration of the Lord's abundant blessings to the Church through one of its treasured universities.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Iowa District West

OVERTURE #4-01: To Encourage Congregations to Utilize Financial Peace University to Help Teach Financial Management

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, God is the owner of everything (Psalm 24:1-2; Psalm 89:11) and bestows financial blessings upon us that we might be good stewards in managing them according to His desire; and

WHEREAS, These financial blessings also have the potential for great temptation, idolatry and even leading people from saving faith (Matthew 6:24; 1 Timothy 6:9-10); and

WHEREAS, Improper financial management is a source of much strife, dissension and heartache within homes; and

WHEREAS, There is much evidence of financial mismanagement within American households (eg. Bankrate survey shows 57% of Americans would have to borrow money to meet an unexpected expense of \$500, Bloomberg reports that the average household in America carries over \$16,000 of credit card debt and nearly \$50,000 in student debt, etc.); and

WHEREAS, Financial mismanagement and excessive debt hinder Christians from giving sacrificially and experiencing the joy of giving; and from generously supporting the Gospel proclamation of the Office of the Ministry; and

WHEREAS, Financial Peace University (FPU) by Dave Ramsey approaches money management from a Christian perspective and has been proven to help many practice better and God-pleasing money management; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Jonathan Conner, Zion, Manning has written at the request of the Synod a helpful "Preview and Review of Financial Peace University" that faithfully, but kindly, points out where Ramsey's theology departs from our own and presents helpful suggestions for Luth-eran pastors and lay leaders who would like to use FPU in their congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, That the congregations of Iowa District West (IDW) be encouraged to utilize FPU to complement an ongoing biblical study of handling God's financial blessings; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations of IDW reference Rev. Conner's "Preview and Review of FPU" in preparing to utilize FPU; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregations of IDW invite citizens of their community to participate in the course as well; and be it finally

Resolved, That the congregations of IDW share a prayer request for their efforts with the IDW mission prayer partners for the blessing of homes and communities and the growth of the Kingdom of God.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Iowa District West

OVERTURE #4-02: To Approve the District Work Program for 2019-2021

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

Resolved, That Iowa District West, meeting in convention, approve the District Work Program for 2019-2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Iowa District West

OVERTURE #4-03: To Approve the District Compensation and Benefit Guidelines for 2019-2021

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

Resolved, That Iowa District West, meeting in convention, approve the District Compensation and Benefit Guidelines for Professional Church Workers for 2019-2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Iowa District West

OVERTURE #4-04: To Encourage Congregations to Expand the Opportunities for Financial Giving

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has defined Christian stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing life and all of life’s resources for God’s purposes”; and

WHEREAS, Financial giving is an important part of Christian stewardship and is to be encouraged among God’s people; and

WHEREAS, The current giving opportunities among many of our congregations (receiving only offerings of cash or check at worship) severely limit the opportunities for many Christians to fully participate in this act of Christian stewardship; and

WHEREAS, Financial transactions on mobile devices are rapidly becoming the norm (e.g. 60% of Amazon’s sales in 2015); and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a history of adapting to new technology for the sake of the Gospel when it doesn’t compromise our beliefs (e.g. radio with *The Lutheran Hour* and television with *This Is The Life*); therefore be it

Resolved, That the congregations of Iowa District West be encouraged to explore the variety of methods available for online and mobile giving and to utilize those methods that best serve their congregation’s mission, encourage generosity among their worshipers, and protect the financial information of their givers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Stewardship Committee of Iowa District West be charged with disseminating information across the District about possible and appropriate vendors and methods; and be it finally

Resolved, That the congregations of Iowa District West seek to develop faithful financial stewardship among their members through intentional, year-round stewardship education and the use of appropriate resources (e.g. LCMS Stewardship Ministry, Financial Peace University).

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Iowa District West

OVERTURE #4-05: To Insure Donor Wishes be Honored

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, The 2016 Synod Convention RESOLUTION 9-02A requires uniformity of asset disposition language in governing documents of corporate agencies of the Synod; and

WHEREAS, This required significant changes in district by-laws governing the distribution of the assets upon the dissolution of a district; and

WHEREAS, RESOLUTION 9-02A fails to take in account those who donated to the endowment and legacy funds with instruction that the funds be used in the geographic area of the district; therefore be it

Resolved, That Iowa District West in convention petition The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Convention to insure endowment and legacy funds to remain in the designated geographical area upon the dissolution of a district.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Iowa District West

OVERTURE #4-06: To Request that the Synod Prioritize Clergy for the Congregational Pastoral Ministry

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, As of 19 September 2017 there were 412 pastoral vacancies in the Synod; and

WHEREAS, It is well understood that Synod pastoral vacancies are increasing due to pastoral retirements and a shortage of graduates from Master of Divinity programs; and

WHEREAS, Congregations of the Synod need and desire a pastoral shepherd; and

WHEREAS, Acts 6:2 instructs that pastors should not neglect the ministry of the word of God;
and

WHEREAS, The Synod has been blessed with talented and qualified clergy and laity; and

WHEREAS, Only specific functions in the Synod theologically or by Synod policy require staffing by Synod clergy; therefore be it

Resolved, That the precious gift of Synod clergy be prioritized for the Word and Sacrament Pastoral Ministry, ideally in context of the congregation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention direct district Board of Directors to designate district positions that can be served by laity with the specific intention that said positions be staffed with qualified laity; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Synod in convention direct Synod Board of Directors and Synod Council of Presidents to designate Synodwide positions which can be served by laity with the specific intention that said positions be staffed with qualified laity.

Respectfully submitted,
Storm Lake Circuit Forum

(Similar Overture submitted by St. John Lutheran Church, Storm Lake)

OVERTURE #5-01: To Adopt the Proposed 2018 Iowa District West *Handbook*

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, The *Handbook* Review Committee has met over the past two years and made significant changes and modifications to the *Handbook*; and

WHEREAS, They have consulted the various committees, groups, and individuals and taken their suggestions under advisement; and

WHEREAS, They have submitted said proposed *Handbook* to the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters for approval; and

WHEREAS, The proposed 2018 Iowa District West *Handbook* has been presented and reviewed at the IDW Pastors Conference on September 26, 2017; therefore be it

Resolved, That the *Handbook* Review Committee, the Circuit Realignment Committee, and the Circuit Visitors be thanked for their hard work and contributing efforts towards these revisions; and be it finally

Resolved, That the proposed 2018 Iowa District West *Handbook* be adopted at this convention and immediately be implemented.

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors, Iowa District West

(Identical Overture was submitted by the Iowa District West Pastors Conference)

OVERTURE #5-02: To Further Encourage Official Circuit Visits by Circuit Visitors and Consideration of Reimbursement to Congregations of Circuit Visitors for Pulpit Supply Expenses

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA
JUNE 24-26, 2018

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention in 2013 changed the office of Circuit Counselor to Circuit Visitor; and

WHEREAS, Each circuit of Iowa District West meets in forum at least once each triennium to elect a Circuit Visitor to serve in the following triennium; and

WHEREAS, Each elected Circuit Visitor is ratified by the President of Iowa District West as his representative in the circuit during the triennium of service; and

WHEREAS, Each elected and ratified Circuit Visitor is encouraged by the President of Iowa District West, after installation at the district convention, to make an official visit on his behalf to each member congregation of the represented circuit of Iowa District West during the triennium of service; and

WHEREAS, An official circuit visit to a member congregation of a circuit is to include, among other considerations, an evaluation of the associated pastor's worship preparation and preaching; and

WHEREAS, An official circuit visit to a congregation may include the Circuit Visitor's attendance in a regularly scheduled worship service of that congregation; and

WHEREAS, The Circuit Visitor is usually the called and ordained pastor of a member congregation or congregations of the circuit in which he serves as Circuit Visitor; and

WHEREAS, The congregation or congregations of which the Circuit Visitor serves as pastor may incur expenses for mileage and pulpit supply when the pastor serving as Circuit Visitor makes an official visit to a member congregation of the circuit that includes attendance at a regularly scheduled worship service of the member congregation of the circuit; therefore be it

Resolved, That each elected and ratified Circuit Visitor knowingly accept the responsibilities of the office of Circuit Visitor by the rite of installation at the district convention; and be it further

Resolved, That the congregation or congregations of the pastor serving as Circuit Visitor be encouraged by Iowa District West in convention to encourage, pray for and support the pastor serving as Circuit Visitor in his appointed duties as Circuit Visitor; and be it further

Resolved, That each elected and ratified circuit visitor is encouraged by Iowa District West in convention to diligently attempt to make at least one official circuit visit to each member congregation in the represented circuit during the triennium of service, and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of Iowa District West be encouraged and directed by Iowa District West in convention to consider reimbursing the congregation or congregations of pastors who serve as Circuit Visitor when the pastor makes an official visit to a member congregation of the represented circuit, for pulpit supply expenses incurred, including mileage for the visiting pastor.

Respectfully submitted,
Council Bluffs Circuit Forum