

August 16, 2004

**To All Member Congregations of the Synod:**

The 2004 convention adopted two resolutions to amend the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Article XIV of the Constitution details the amendment process:

- Amendments must not conflict with the provisions laid down in Articles II and VI of the Constitution.
- Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Synod assembled in convention.
- Each amendment must be voted on separately at the convention and receive a favorable two-thirds majority of votes cast.

The above requirements were all met. The approval process now continues during the months following the convention:

- Amendments adopted by the convention must be submitted to the congregations of the Synod by means of three announcements in the Synod's official periodicals.
- The amendments must be submitted directly to each voting congregation of the Synod on an official ballot provided by the Synod.
- Congregations by official action must use this official ballot to cast their affirmative or negative votes and return it to the Secretary of the Synod.
- For final approval amendments must receive a favorable two-thirds majority of all votes cast by congregations within six months of the date of the mailing of the ballots.

At the end of the voting process by congregations, the Secretary of the Synod announces the outcome according to Districts in an official periodical of the Synod. The proposed amendments become effective provided that they received a favorable two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

The purpose of this mailing, therefore, is (1) to submit the constitutional amendments adopted by the 2004 convention to the voting congregations of the Synod, (2) to offer information regarding those amendments, and (3) to provide the official ballots to be used in response to determine whether the amendments have been finally approved by the required two-thirds vote.

**– CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT A –**

Resolution 7-21, "To Amend Constitution Regarding Officer and Board Responsibilities," received the required two-thirds majority vote of the convention [Yes: 780; No: 322.] It amends Article XI F 2 of the Constitution by placing limitations upon the authority of the Board of Directors to supervise the property and business affairs of the Synod. The amendments to the paragraph are as follows:

**PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

2. The Board of Directors is the legal representative of the Synod. It is the custodian of all the property of the Synod, directly or by its delegation of such authority to an agency of the Synod. It shall exercise supervision over all the property and business affairs of the Synod except in those areas where it has delegated such authority to an agency of the Synod to the extent management authority and duties have been delegated by the Constitution, Bylaws, or resolutions of the Synod to other officers and agencies of the Synod or where the voting members of the Synod through the adoption of bylaws or by other convention action have assigned specific areas of responsibility to separate corporate or trust entities, and as to those the Board of Directors shall have general oversight responsibility as set forth in the Bylaws.

– CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT B –

Resolution 5-04A, "To Place Directors of Family Life Ministry on Roster," received the required two-thirds majority vote of the convention [Yes: 849; No: 319]. It amends those articles of the Constitution that list the categories of roster membership in the Synod (Art. V; VI 3 and 6) or identify the categories of advisory membership in the Synod (Art. V B; XII B and B I).

One such article that typically lists the categories of roster membership in the Synod is Article V, which reads as amended:

**PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

**Article V Membership**

Membership in the Synod is held and may be acquired by congregations, ministers of religion—ordained, and ministers of religion—commissioned, such as teachers, directors of Christian education, directors of Christian outreach, directors of parish music, directors of family life ministry, deaconesses, parish assistants, and certified lay ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church who confess and accept the confessional basis of Article II.

One such article that typically identifies the categories of advisory membership in the Synod is Article V B, which reads as amended:

**PRESENT/PROPOSED WORDING**

**B. Advisory Members**

Advisory members only are the following:

1. Pastors whose congregations do not hold membership in the Synod;
2. Assistant pastors;
3. Ministers not in charge of congregations;
4. Professors at the Synod's educational institutions;
5. Teachers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church
6. Directors of Christian education;
7. Directors of Christian outreach;
8. Directors of parish music;
9. Directors of family life ministry;
10. Deaconesses;
11. Parish assistants;
12. Certified lay ministers;
13. Candidates for the office of the ministry, for that of a teacher of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, for director of Christian education, for director of Christian outreach, for director of parish music, for director of family life ministry, for deaconess, for certified lay minister, or for parish assistant.

**2004 OFFICIAL BALLOT  
PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

Please indicate your congregation's votes on the amendments, detach the ballot from this page, refold it into thirds to allow the correct return address to show, fasten it with tape, affix postage, and place in the mail. The deadline for this ballot to be received in the Office of the Secretary of the Synod will be February 28, 2005.

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