



Missouri District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD



Dear Timothy Congregation,

On June 22-24, Gary Flandermeyer and I attended the Missouri District Convention. This event occurs every 3 years and is necessary for the well-being of our District and our walk together in faith, mission, and ministry. The convention hosts one voting pastoral delegate and one voting lay delegate from every congregation that is within the district. Others may attend as well, but they are not allowed to vote (Donna Gage from Timothy was in attendance). Below you will find my brief reflections on the convention. Gary Flandermeyer has also had a chance to look it over and add notes as he saw fit.

Sunday evening, the convention began with worship at 7 pm. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia, MO, oversaw worship and Synodical 1st Vice President Rev. Peter Lange preached. The theme for the conference was "Bold Hope in Christ" in reflection of 2 Corinthians 3:12. \$15,077.52 was collected in the offering and designated for the scholarship endowment for university and seminary students preparing for professional church work vocations—commonly known throughout the state as Tomorrow's Teachers & Preachers.

Sessions began following devotion at approximately 8:30 am. Early in the morning, delegates unanimously reelected Rev Dr. Lee Hagan to serve as District President. He will continue his role as not just Missouri District President but chairman of the LCMS Council of Presidents. Along with President Hagan, first Vice President Rev. Craig Otto, and Vice Presidents Rev. Randy Asburry, Rev. Samuel Powell, and Rev. Richard Cody were elected as well. Voting continued as new members of the Board of Directors (Commissioned, lay, and ordained), District Secretary (ordained), and members of the Council of Mission and Ministry (Commissioned, lay, and ordained) were elected or reelected. Lastly, members of the nomination committee were elected on Tuesday.

President Hagan offered his acceptance speech as well as the President's Report during our time. He spoke about both opportunities and challenges. Some of the opportunities he shared were the success and joy of the Shine events over the past few years, along with the growth of the MO Scholars fund, which is a tax credit that benefits our Lutheran Schools in the State of Missouri. The challenges he spoke to were the district-wide decline in worship attendance, the pressure on families from a shifting culture, and the increasing need for faithful church workers and Christian counselors.



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Resolutions were also voted on during the time together. Click here to see all Resolutions:

<https://mo.lcms.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Monday-Todays-Business-1.pdf>

Most of the discussion around the resolutions revolved around wording changes. However, I believe all the resolutions passed with over 90% affirmative vote, if not more.

It was requested of us as delegates to make known the churches' (District, Synod's) stance on Amendment 3, which was passed in the fall here in Missouri. I am not sure how we should share that with others. I certainly can make a church announcement some Sunday about the convention, and we can send it out in Timothy connects with a link.

The convention also hosted 2 guest speakers. The first was Rev. Dr. Kevin Golden, associate professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis was the essayist who presented a 2 part paper on the church's ability to have bold hope! As Paul called the Corinthians to live boldly because of their hope, so too Golden encouraged us to live out our faith boldly.

The second guest speaker was Synodical Vice President Rev. Dr. Peter Lange. He shared a report from Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison (synodical President) calling us back to our identity as "Concord Christians." And he then shared encouraging statistics and noted that, by God's grace, the Synod is in its strongest financial position in decades. He provided updates on church planting efforts, outreach among diverse communities, and the work of LCMS missionaries serving around the world.

Overall, the Convention was filled with peace and charity as requested by President Hagan. My personal reflection is that the convention was well-led and organized. There was no hostility or even negative debate. I was both challenged and encouraged by a couple of the sermons/devotions shared, which was good for my own soul. On the other side, church business is not in my realm of enjoyment, and while I understand its importance, resolutions don't often gain the traction they need to make an impact. So, we continue as the church to set our eyes on our calling in Christ and continue living out the faith alongside our sister congregations.

NOTE: The full written proceedings are filed in the library for members' use. Also, recordings of the convocation can be found on the District Website in time. <https://mo.lcms.org/>

Thank you for the support and opportunity to serve Timothy in this way.

Pastor Ryan Hochgrebe