

**NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD
BYLAWS**

Mission Statement: The Mission of the New England District is to encourage and assist its congregations in their ministry of Word and Sacrament to build up the body of Christ and to make disciples of all peoples.

ARTICLE I -- Name and Purpose

A. NAME

1.01 The name of this organization shall be the New England District, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (hereinafter "the District").

B. RELATION TO SYNOD

1.11 The District was created by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (hereinafter "Synod") in order to achieve the objectives of Synod and carry on its activities more effectively within New England.

1.12 The constitution of Synod is recognized as the constitution of the District. The bylaws of Synod shall be primarily the bylaws of the District. No bylaws, regulation or resolution of the District shall conflict with the constitution or bylaws of Synod.

C. INCORPORATION

1.21 The District shall incorporate itself under the laws of the state of Connecticut.

ARTICLE II -- Conventions

A. REGULAR CONVENTIONS

2.01 Regular meetings of the District (hereinafter "Convention") shall be held in the years designated in the bylaws of the Synod.

2.02 The date, time and place of the Convention shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

B. SPECIAL CONVENTIONS

2.11 Special Conventions may be called by the District President and/or the Board of Directors provided consent has first been obtained from at least a majority of the congregations through their Church Council or Board of Directors or their Voters' meeting.

2.12 The business of a special Convention shall be limited to the purpose for which it was called.

C. VOTING MEMBERSHIP

2.21 Voting membership shall be vested in those congregations recognized by Synod as being members of the District at the time of the Convention.

ARTICLE III – Officers

A. QUALIFICATIONS

3.01 The following officers shall be elected from the clergy roster of Synod: a President, three area Vice Presidents, a Secretary, and a Circuit Counselor from each Circuit established by the District.

3.02 A layperson shall be elected to the office of Treasurer.

3.03 All officers shall be members of congregations of the District upon assuming office and during the course of their tenure.

B. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

3.11 The District President is the chief executive officer of the District.

a. He shall perform those duties imposed upon District Presidents by the constitution, bylaws and policy of the Synod.

b. He shall make it a first priority to visit every congregation within the District within each triennium providing ministry of spiritual support and encouragement to pastors and congregations (i.e., listening, prayer, spiritual counsel).

c. He shall concentrate his efforts within the District as opposed to Synodical responsibilities until there is expanded full-time District staff.

d. He shall preside at District conventions and shall serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors.

e. He shall consult with the Executive Committee as part of the decision making process.

f. He shall perform such additional duties as may be requested by the Board of Directors of the District.

3.12 The three area Vice Presidents shall serve in the position to which they are elected.

a. Each shall be elected to represent the area in which he serves.

b. He shall be the liaison person between the District President and the pastors and congregations in his specific area to assist the President in an advisory capacity, not to infringe on the duties of the Circuit Counselor.

c. He shall be a resource person for the department chairperson to provide support and consultation. The assignments of the vice presidents to the departments will be decided within the presidium.

d. He shall perform such additional duties as may be assigned to him by the District President or the Board of Directors.

3.14 The Circuit Counselors shall perform all duties outlined for them by the Handbook of Synod, including such duties as may be requested by the District President.

3.15 The Treasurer shall be responsible for all duties customarily performed by treasurers of corporations.

a. This person shall receive and disburse District monies.

b. This person shall keep an accurate account of all assets owned by the District.

c. This person shall perform such additional duties as may be requested by the Board of Directors or the District President.

C. TERM OF OFFICE

3.21 All officers shall serve for three years with no limit on the number of consecutive terms.

3.22 All officers, except the President of the District, shall take office on August 1 following the District Convention.

3.23 The President of the District shall take office on any date between August 1 and September 1 following the District Convention as arranged between the President and the President-elect.

E. VACANCIES

3.31 In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice Presidents shall succeed to the unexpired term in the order of their rank. (See 8.20d for the ranking of Vice Presidents.)

3.32 Vacancies in all other offices shall be filled through appointment by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE IV -- Board of Directors

A. MEMBERSHIP

4.01 The Board of Directors shall be composed of eleven voting members.

a. By virtue of their office the following shall serve on the Board of Directors: the President, first Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

b. The convention shall elect seven additional directors: two pastors, four laypersons and one non-clergy professional worker.

c. The chairpersons of the Departments shall be selected from these seven additional directors by the District President in consultation with his vice presidents and ratified by the Board of directors.

4.02 All directors, upon assuming office and during the course of their tenure, shall be members of congregations of District.

4.03 All directors shall serve for three years with no limit on the number of consecutive terms.

4.04 All directors shall take office on August 1 following the District Convention.

4.05 In the event a vacancy occurs among the directors, the President with the approval of the Board of Directors shall appoint a person to fill that position for the unexpired term.

B. MEETINGS

4.11 The Board of Directors shall meet at least four times per calendar year at such time and place as it determines.

- a. The Annual Meeting, at which the budget is adopted, shall be held within thirty days of the beginning of the fiscal year.
- b. Additional meetings may be called by the District President or by one-third of the voting members of the Board of Directors.
- c. The District Secretary shall serve as secretary for the Board of Directors.
- d. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

C. DUTIES

4.21 The Board of Directors shall have all powers and duties given to it by the laws of the state of Connecticut, these bylaws, and resolutions adopted at the District Convention.

- a. It shall be vested with the management and supervision of the District's business and legal affairs.
- b. It shall assist the District President in ensuring the implementation of Synodical and District resolutions.
- c. It shall have the right to call up for review, criticism or suggestion any policy of a Department of the District.
- d. It is accountable to the District Convention.
- e. It shall be empowered to issue calls on behalf of the District.

4.22 In fulfilling its functions, the Board of Directors shall be guided generally by the functions of the Synodical Board of Directors (Handbook 3.181 ff.) as these apply to the District, and subject to the reservations, limitations, and delegations of such Synodical bylaws.

ARTICLE V -- Executive Committee

A. MEMBERSHIP

5.01 By virtue of their office the following shall serve as members of the executive committee: the President, the First Vice President, Secretary, and the Treasurer.

5.02 The chairpersons of the three Departments shall serve on the Executive Committee.

5.03 The Executive Committee shall select one executive committee member to serve as committee chairperson.

5.04 The District Secretary shall serve as secretary for the executive committee.

B. MEETINGS

5.11 Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by its chairperson or a majority of its membership.

C. DUTIES

5.21 The Executive Committee shall perform the following duties:

- a. It shall prepare the agenda for Board of Directors meetings.
- b. It shall make emergency decisions when the full Board of Directors cannot be convened in a timely manner.
- c. It shall review all non-budget expenditures prior to submission to the Board.
- d. It shall perform such additional duties as assigned by the Board of Directors and the District President.

ARTICLE VI -- District Structure

A. DEPARTMENTS AND CHAIRPERSONS

6.01 In order to carry out the ministry of our Lord, the District shall be composed of three Departments which will assign responsibilities within its jurisdiction to commissions or committees as is necessary.

- a. The Chairperson of each of these Departments may be either a layperson or a pastor. The Chairpersons of the Departments shall be selected by the District President in consultation with his vice presidents and ratified by the Board of Directors. Vice Presidents cannot serve in these positions.
- b. Each Department shall consist of at least five persons, three laypersons and two clergy, and shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the designated Vice President.
- c. Each Department shall be responsible to the Board of Directors and shall administer its affairs in accordance with the District policy.

B. MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

6.11 The Mission Department shall aid congregations within the District to achieve their objectives in outreach in their own community and throughout the world.

6.12 The Missions Department will be concerned with the following areas of ministry: Church planting, shared resources (subsidized congregations), special needs ministries (deaf, people who are mentally retarded, older adults), campus ministry, internal and external communications (public relations), human care (family life counseling, World Relief, etc.)

C. PARISH LIFE DEPARTMENT

6.21 The Parish Life Department shall aid congregations within the District to achieve their objectives in nurturing the spiritual growth of the congregations and their members.

6.22 The Parish Life Department will be concerned with all following areas of ministry: including education, evangelism, stewardship, worship and youth.

D. DISTRICT MATTERS DEPARTMENT

6.31 The District Matters Department shall aid the Board of Directors in administering finances and property of the District.

6.32 The Treasurer shall be an ex officio member of the District Matters Department. The Department shall assist the Treasurer in the performance of his/her duties.

6.33 The District Matters Department will be concerned with the following areas of ministry: archives, financial support, District property management, congregational constitutions, LCEF, recruitment of church workers, special projects, etc.

ARTICLE VII – Staff

7.01 The District shall have such additional executives, agents and employees as may from time to time be prescribed in the Handbook of Synod, by the Board of Directors or by duly adopted resolution at a District convention.

ARTICLE VIII -- Nominations and Elections

A. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

8.01 The District Nominating Committee shall be composed of one representative from each circuit and a non-clergy professional worker from within the District. All shall be elected by the convention.

a. The Nominating Committee shall be selected as follows:

1. In even numbered convention years, each even numbered circuit shall appoint a pastoral candidate and each odd numbered circuit shall appoint a lay candidate. In odd numbered convention years each odd numbered circuit shall appoint a pastoral candidate, and each even numbered circuit shall appoint a lay candidate.

2. These candidates shall be considered a slate. The convention may amend the slate. The convention shall then ratify the slate, which shall constitute election.

3. The president shall appoint two candidates for the non-clergy professional worker position. Convention may amend the slate. Convention shall elect one of these two candidates.

B. ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

8.11 The District President shall appoint the floor committee on election, which shall conduct the election process for the entire convention.

C. NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

8.12 The District President

a. Four months prior to each regular convention each District congregation may nominate two candidates for the office of District President.

b. The slate shall be composed of all candidates receiving more than one nomination and who are willing to serve.

c. Additional nominations for the office of the President may be made from the floor of the convention, provided the nominee gives consent.

8.20. The Vice Presidents

a. Four months prior to each regular convention each District congregation may nominate two candidates from their area for the office of Vice President.

b. The slate for each vice presidential area shall be composed of all candidates receiving more than one nomination and who are willing to serve.

c. Additional nominations for each office may be made from the floor of the convention, provided the nominee gives consent.

d. A separate ballot shall be used to rank them in office.

8.30 The District shall adopt nomination and election procedures for other elected positions as needed, provided that they do not conflict with those outlined in the Handbook of Synod.

ARTICLE IX -- Amendments

9.01 These bylaws may be amended by an affirmative majority vote at a District Convention, provided, however, that all amendments must be presented in writing and specified as such before vote.

9.02 In the event an action by Synod affects any provision of these Bylaws, the Board of Directors shall be empowered to amend these Bylaws to conform with those of Synod.

9.03 No amendment shall be adopted which is inconsistent with the constitution of Synod.

9.04 All amendments shall be approved by Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters prior to implementation.

(As amended June 2009)