

LCMS Convention: Parochial Schools #8

<http://www.lcms.org/convention>

Four (4) resolutions were passed at the convention.

<http://www.lcms.org/convention/downloads>

From the final minutes download: (To read the resolutions you will need to reference the downloads of the appropriate issues of Today's Business.)



Committee 8: Parochial Schools

As Committee 8 came forward, a delegate brought forward the resolution printed in Tuesday's *Today's Business*, pp. 438f., "To Preserve the Authority and Clarity of the New Testament Scriptures." After his motion was seconded and during discussion, a motion was introduced to refer this resolution to the President of the Synod. A motion to end debate was introduced and carried [Yes: 823; No: 181] and the motion to refer was carried [Yes: 878; No: 137].

Committee 8 Chairman Dean Nadasdy, Minnesota South District President, introduced the work of his committee. Res. 8-01A "To Encourage and Strengthen the Lutheran Ethos of our LCMS Early Childhood Centers, Elementary Schools, and High Schools" (TB, pp. 351f.—Part 2, Sunday issue) was then introduced by the committee. During the discussion that followed, the words "rostered and non-rostered" were added at the beginning of the third-last whereas paragraph, and the words "or Christian teachers in the LCMS teacher colloquy program" were added after "teachers" in #5 of the first resolve, and the words "supports the school and" were added before the word "eagerly" in #6—all as friendly amendments. The chair asked for and received the assembly's support by voice vote to proceed with the vote on the resolution. Res. 8-01A was adopted as changed, also by voice vote.

Res. 8-02 "To Recruit and Equip Lutheran Administrators for Service in Early Childhood Centers and Schools" (TB, pp. 112f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. Without objection from the assembly to proceeding with the vote on the resolution immediately, Res. 8-02 was adopted as presented by voice vote.

Res. 8-03A "To Support the Quality and Sustainability of Lutheran Schools through Work of Blue Ribbon Committee on Lutheran Schools" (TB, pp. 353f.—Part 2, Sunday issue) was introduced by the committee. Without objection from the floor to proceeding to vote immediately, Res. 8-03A was adopted as presented by voice vote.

Res. 8-04 "To Preserve the Religious Freedom of Our Parochial Schools (TB, p. 114—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. Debate was closed by voice vote, and Res. 8-04 was adopted as presented, also by voice vote.

This particular resolution will involve my office over the next 3 years. I intend to produce a tool each year for you to use to implement in your ministry. I will also share with you a reporting mechanism near the end of each school term so I can compile a report for the District President.

8. Parochial Schools

To Encourage and Strengthen the Lutheran Ethos of Our LCMS Early Childhood Centers, 4 Elementary Schools, and High Schools

5

6 RESOLUTION 8-01A

7

8 President's Report – Part II (*TB*, pp. 21–31)

9

10 WHEREAS, The Holy Scriptures and the Small Catechism are foundational for our faith and life in Christ; and

11

12 WHEREAS, Luther was concerned that “[a]ll the people are supposed to be Christians, have been baptized, and
13 receive the Holy Sacrament even though they do not know the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, or the Ten Commandments
14 and live like poor animals of the barnyard and pigpen. What these people have mastered, however, is the fine art of
15 tearing all Christian liberty to shreds” (Small Catechism – Preface); and

16

17 WHEREAS, The prefaces to the Small and Large Catechisms enjoin both the teaching and understanding of the
18 Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, as foundational for the Lutheran ethos in the Christian
19 congregation, home, and school; and

20

21 WHEREAS, The Word of God and the Catechism teach us how to receive God's gifts in the Divine Service, how
22 to pray, how to confess, how to forgive, and how to live where God has called us, with faith in Christ and love to the
23 neighbor; and

24

25 WHEREAS, The congregations and schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) are bound to the
26 Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions for the teaching of the faith and the practice of that faith; and

27

28 WHEREAS, The purpose of the liturgy and the hymnody of the Church is to teach us what we need to know
29 about Christ (AC XXIV); and

30

31 WHEREAS, Our Synod has always placed a high value on doctrinally sound hymnals and agendas for teaching
32 the faith (Constitution Article VI); and

33

34 WHEREAS, *Lutheran Service Book* is a blessing to our Synod and has been joyfully received in many Lutheran
35 schools as the basis of their worship and catechesis; and

36

37 WHEREAS, The Bible, the Catechism, and the hymnal are central to the Lutheran ethos and are God's gifts to us
38 that we might lovingly and clearly confess the Christian faith to children and families of our schools, believers and
39 unbelievers alike; and

40

41 WHEREAS, The increasing presence of non-Lutherans in our schools presents an opportunity to evangelize them,
42 calling them to repentance and faith in Christ, so that they may be buried with Christ by baptism into death in order
43 that they, too, might walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4); and

44

45 WHEREAS, For the mission of the Church, it is imperative that we confess the Christian faith before the world in
46 all aspects of our life, especially to those whom God has placed in our charge; and

47

48 WHEREAS, Trained Lutheran teachers in our LCMS schools daily integrate theology in their teaching, model the
49 Christian life, rightly apply Law and Gospel for the admonition and comfort of their students, and ultimately help
50 them attain the fullness of maturity in Christ (Eph. 4:13); and

51

52 WHEREAS, The Lutheran ethos of our schools would greatly benefit from their dedicated non-Lutheran teachers
53 receiving further catechesis in the Lutheran faith; and

54

55 WHEREAS, The National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) process recognizes the importance of the
56 Lutheran ethos in our schools; therefore be it

352 | Page

1

Resolved, That all pastors, administrators, teachers, and parents in the schools of the LCMS continue to build a
3 Lutheran ethos in their schools characterized by the following:

4

5 1. Daily use of the Scriptures, prayer, Luther's Small Catechism, and the hymnal in the instructional and
6 devotional life of their students at school and at home;

7 2. A consistently faithful and winsome witness to God's judgment on sin and His grace in Jesus Christ to all
8 students and family members;

9 3. A life together rooted in the forgiveness of sins and Christ-like love;

10 4. Regular memorization of Holy Scripture and Luther's Small Catechism;

11 5. LCMS-trained Lutheran teachers who know and are committed to the truths of the Scriptures as confessed
12 in our Lutheran Confessions;

13 6. A pastor who eagerly serves the school as its spiritual leader, faithfully ministering with faculty, students,
14 and their families;

15 7. A joyful affirmation and use of the historic, liturgical orders of the church in the worship life of students at
16 school and at home;

17 8. A lively integration of our Scriptural and confessional worldview into all the arts, sciences, and academic
18 disciplines, recognizing these disciplines as gifts of God to be informed by the Word of God (Col. 3:16-17);

19 9. Students growing into the full stature of Christ (Eph. 4:13-15) as His mature disciples, fulfilling their
20 vocations in service to Him and to their neighbors;

21 10. Resources offering guidance and support for parents as they teach the faith at home;

22 11. Training of students to confess and model their Christian faith with family, friends, and neighbors who do
23 not know Christ;

24

25 and be it further

26

27 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention encourage pastors, administrators, teachers, and parents to work
28 together in establishing this Lutheran ethos in their churches and schools; and be it further

29

30 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention encourage congregational members of all churches in the LCMS to
31 receive, care for, and pray continually for their pastors and teachers as blessings from God; and be it further

32

33 *Resolved*, That the Synod in convention give thanks to those, past and present, who have faithfully served in our
34 LCMS schools; and be it further

35

36 *Resolved*, That the pastors, administrators, teachers, students, and families in our LCMS schools regularly
37 rejoice in and give thanks for their partnership in the Gospel; and be it further

38

39 *Resolved*, That the Office of National Mission (ONM) provide guidance to congregations and schools in
40 implementing the above resolutions; and be it further

41

42 *Resolved*, That Lutheran schools be encouraged to pursue and maintain NLSA to assist in assessing not only
43 quality of education but also Lutheran ethos; and be it further

44

45 *Resolved*, That the district presidents and their representatives affirm, encourage, assist, and support
46 congregations, pastors, and teachers in maintaining the Lutheran ethos of their schools; and be it finally

47

48 *Resolved*, That the district presidents and the ONM report to the Synod in the next convention what they have
49 done to strengthen the Lutheran ethos of our schools, along with their evaluations and recommendations for further
50 strengthening the Lutheran ethos of our schools.