**To Modify the Governance of the Colleges and Universities of the Concordia University System**

**Rationale**

Higher education is in a time of significant change, including but not limited to demographic shifts in prospective student populations, increasing market competition from non-profit and for-profit providers of education, ongoing innovations in technology and academic program delivery models, increasing accountability to public and private entities, and growing financial complexities.

Christian colleges and universities face the additional challenge to be faithful to their confession in an increasingly secular culture.

To survive and thrive in today’s highly competitive, complex, and secular environment Christian institutions of higher education require an informed and talented board of regents, with a common commitment to education in the context of the Christian Gospel. Regents’ understanding of and passion for the unique missions of the institutions they govern, a multiplicity of skill sets to support the specific needs of the institutions they govern, and the capacity to support these institutions with their time, talent, treasure, and other resources is critical.

Whereas, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been blessed by our Concordia Colleges and Universities for more than 100 years; and

Whereas, the colleges and universities of the Concordia University System (CUS) desire to preserve and extend their identity as Lutheran institutions of higher education, which offer quality, affordable education, and have therefore renewed their commitment to Lutheran higher education by signing the Lutheran Identity Statement; and

Whereas, our CUS colleges and universities continue to provide the highest quality of education and faith development in the midst of a highly competitive higher education market; and

Whereas, each Concordia is located in a unique part of the United States and faces legal challenges, cultural opportunities, and economic diversity which may differ from other CUS schools; and

Whereas, the schools of the CUS are valued partners of the LCMS, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention give thanks to God for the treasures it has in its nine colleges and universities, and be it further

*Resolved*, that the governance of the individual colleges and universities of the Concordia University System be changed to the extent that

* Each college or university will determine the number of regents it chooses to appoint to its Board of Regents;
* Each Board of Regents will be responsible for appointing its own members from within a pool of candidates consisting of the members of member congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;
* Each Board of Regents will include among its members
	+ - the president of the LCMS District in which the college or university is located,
		- a regent who resides in the Synodical geographic Region of the university, appointed by the LCMS President,
		- a regent who resides in the Synodical geographic Region of the university, appointed by the LCMS Board of Directors,
		- a minimum of two regents who are members in good standing on the LCMS roster of ministers of religion, ordained,
		- a minimum of two regents who are members in good standing on the LCMS roster of ministers of religion, commissioned;

 and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Commission on Handbook be directed to make the appropriate changes to the bylaws of the Synod in accordance with bylaw 3.9.4.2b; and be it finally

*Resolved*, that **this body** memorialize the Synod in convention with this resolution.