

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

3
4 **Rationale**

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

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

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

19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38 ● Each college or university will determine the number of regents it chooses to
39 appoint to its Board of Regents;

40 ● Each Board of Regents will be responsible for appointing its own members
41 from within a pool of candidates consisting of the members of member
42 congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;

43 ● Each Board of Regents will include among its members

44 ▪ the president of the LCMS District in which the college or university is
45 located,

46 ▪ a regent who resides in the Synodical geographic Region of the
47 university, appointed by the LCMS President,

48 ▪ a regent who resides in the Synodical geographic Region of the
49 university, appointed by the LCMS Board of Directors,

50 ▪ a minimum of two regents who are members in good standing on the
51 LCMS roster of ministers of religion, ordained,

52 ▪ a minimum of two regents who are members in good standing on the
53 LCMS roster of ministers of religion, commissioned;

54 and be it further

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

57 *Resolved,* that **this body** memorialize the Synod in convention with this resolution.
58