

Proposed Bylaw Changes

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE LWML MICHIGAN DISTRICT BYLAWS
2026 MICHIGAN DISTRICT CONVENTION**

LWML Michigan District Bylaws

Proposed Date of Approval – June 26, 2026

Article I – Name

Proposed Amendment: To add “Michigan District” to the first “hereinafter” and to delete abbreviation for “doing business as” with “also known as.” To add the phrase “a subordinate organization of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (hereinafter referred to as LWML),” and the word “integrated” to the phrase “which is an auxiliary of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (hereinafter referred to as LCMS).”

Rationale: To replace existing bylaw with the recommended version provided by LWML.org

Existing bylaw reads:	If adopted, will read:
Article I - Name	Article I - Name
The name of this organization shall be the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Michigan District (hereinafter referred to as “LWML”) and also d.b.a. Lutheran Women in Mission. The LWML is an auxiliary of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (hereinafter referred to as “LCMS”).	The name of this organization shall be Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Michigan District (hereinafter referred to as LWML Michigan District), also known as Lutheran Women in Mission, a subordinate organization of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (hereinafter referred to as LWML) , which is an integrated auxiliary of The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod (hereinafter referred to as “LCMS”).

Article III – Structure

Section 3 a. – Zone Bylaws

Proposed Amendment: To add “and review them every four years.”

Rationale: To encourage a more frequent review of zone bylaws for amendments and updates, as recommended by LWML.

Existing bylaw reads:	If adopted, will read:
Section 3 - Zone Bylaws	Section 3 - Zone Bylaws
a. Each zone shall write its own bylaws.	a. Each zone shall write its own bylaws and review them every four years.

Article V – Conventions

Section 1 – Purpose and Site Selection

Proposed Amendments: Delete Section 1 a. and 1 b. and substitute a new 1 a. and 1 b. stating that the District President is responsible for choosing and inviting zones to serve as convention hosts and that the Executive Committee must be notified of the invitations and acceptance in a timely fashion.

Rationale: To bring the process of Site Selection into current practice.

Existing bylaw reads:	If adopted, will read:
Section 1 – Purpose and Site Selection	Section 1 – Purpose and Site Selection
a. Zones shall extend invitations for hosting a District convention. b. Invitations shall be made to the Executive Committee in a time and manner prescribed by the Executive Committee.	a. The District President will invite zones to serve as convention hosts. b. Invitations shall be reported to the Executive Committee when they have been accepted.

Article V – Conventions

Section 2 – Voting Body

a. 2) d)

Proposed Amendment: In Section 2 a. 2) d) insert “who are listed in the Bylaws” following “members”.

Rationale: To clarify which Standing Committee members may vote at Convention.

Existing bylaw reads:	If adopted, will read:
Section 2 – Voting Body a. The voting assembly of the convention shall be: 2) The following members of the Board of Directors: d) Standing committee members [See Article XIV, Section 1 b.6)].	Section 2 – Voting Body a. The voting assembly of the convention shall be: 2) The following members of the Board of Directors: d) Standing committee members who are listed in the Bylaws [See Article XIV, Section 1.b.6)]

Article IX – Appointed Officers
Section 4 – Additional Appointed Personnel

Proposed Amendment: Delete Article IX, Section 4 – Additional Appointed Personnel

Rationale: This section was erroneously added to Article IX but belongs under Article X – Special Appointed Personnel because Special Appointed Personnel are not appointed officers.

Existing bylaw reads:	If adopted, will read:
Article IX – Appointed Officers Section 4 – Additional Appointed Personnel There may be additional appointed personnel as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the LWML. The Executive Committee authorizing the appointed personnel shall determine the authority and responsibility of the appointed personnel.	Delete and create an Article X, Section 8 – Additional Special Appointed Personnel

Article X – Special Appointed Personnel
Section 1 – Titles and Criteria

Proposed Amendment: Insert “Convention Registrar” following “Convention Manager” and insert “any others as” following “Personnel Records Liaison and”.

Rationale: Convention Registrar is a position requiring specialized skill and requires continuity from convention to convention. This position should be filled by the District President from the members of the District.

Existing bylaw reads:	If adopted, will read:
Article X – Special Appointed Personnel Section 1 – Titles and Criteria The special appointed personnel shall be Archivist-Historian, Convention Manager, Parliamentarian, Technology Specialist, and Personnel Records Liaison.	Article X – Special Appointed Personnel Section 1 – Titles and Criteria The special appointed personnel shall be Archivist-Historian, Convention Manager, Convention Registrar , Parliamentarian, Technology Specialist, Personnel Records Liaison and any others as appointed by the president

Article X – Special Appointed Personnel

Section 4 – Substitute a new Section 4 – Registrar

Proposed Amendment: Insert a new Section 4 – Convention Registrar as written below.

Rationale: The Convention Registrar was omitted from the previous list of Special Appointed Personnel.

Existing bylaw reads:	If adopted, will read:
None	<p>Article X – Special Appointed Personnel Section 4 – Convention Registrar The Convention Registrar shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Provide convention credentials to voting members of the Convention (See Article V, Section 2)b. Provide Convention Credentials Reports as necessary to the Recording Secretary, Tellers, and the assemblyc. Perform duties as listed in the District <i>Leaders Guide</i> and as directed by the President.

Article X – Special Appointed Personnel

Proposed Amendment: Add a Section 8 – Additional Special Appointed Personnel as shown below.

Rationale: To plan for additional personnel deemed necessary to carry out the work of LWML Michigan District, i.e. President’s Assistant

Existing bylaw reads:	If adopted, will read:
None	<p>Article X – Appointed Officers Section 8 – Additional Special Appointed Personnel There may be additional appointed personnel as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the LWML Michigan District. The Executive Committee authorizing the appointed personnel shall determine the authority and responsibility of the appointed personnel.</p>

Article XI – Board of Directors

Section 4 f. - Responsibilities, The Board of Directors shall:

Proposed Amendment: Insert “as recommended by the Grants Evaluation and Selection Committee” following “ballot”.

Rationale: To clarify mission grants considered by the Board of Directors for the convention ballot. It is assumed that the Grant Evaluation and Selection Committee has followed and complied with rules and procedures for evaluating and selecting grant proposals for Board of Directors evaluation (including review by the LCMS District President). If the Board of Directors were to evaluate other grant proposals outside of this process, this would negate the lengthy and complicated process which has proven valuable and correct over the course of time.

Existing bylaw reads:	If adopted, will read:
Article XI – Board of Directors Section 4 f. – Responsibilities The Board of Directors shall: Consider and approve the mission grants proposals for the convention ballot [See Article XIV, Section 5 and Article XVII, Section 2b];	Article XI – Board of Directors Section 4 f. – Responsibilities The Board of Directors shall: Consider and approve the mission grant proposals for the convention ballot as recommended by the Grant Evaluation and Selection Committee. [See Article XIV, Section 5 and Article XVII, Section 2b];

Article XIII – Pastoral Counselors

Section 1 – Criteria, Terms, and Assumption of Duties

Proposed Amendment: Add “who are active or retired.”

Rationale: To clarify that the position of Pastoral Counselor is open to all pastors, whether active or retired.

Existing bylaw reads:	If adopted, will read:
Article XIII – Pastoral Counselors Section 1 – Criteria, Terms, and Assumption of Duties The Pastoral Counselors shall be two (2) pastors of the Michigan District LCMS.	Article XIII – Pastoral Counselors Section 1 – Criteria, Terms, and Assumption of Duties The Pastoral Counselors shall be two (2) pastors of the Michigan District LCMS who are active or retired.

Article XIV – Standing Committees

Section 2 – Christian Outreach Committee

Proposed Amendment: Add a list of the following members of the Committee: “the Vice President of Christian Outreach, Christian Growth Coordinator, the Speaker’s Bureau Coordinator, the Christian Materials Coordinator, and the Servant Projects Coordinator. Each coordinator is to perform duties as listed in the District *Leaders Guide*.”

Rationale: Standing Committee members are permitted to vote at the District Convention. This clarifies positions which are members of the Christian Outreach Committee and therefore allowed to vote at District Convention. This adds consistency to the Bylaws as the members of all other Standing Committees are currently listed.

Existing bylaw reads:	If adopted, will read:
Article XIV – Standing Committees Section 2 – Christian Outreach Committee The Christian Outreach Committee shall include the Vice President of Christian Outreach Committee and team members...	Article XIV – Standing Committees Section 2 – Christian Outreach Committee The Christian Outreach Committee shall include the Vice President of Christian Outreach, the Christian Growth Coordinator, the Speaker’s Bureau Coordinator, the Christian Materials Coordinator, and the Servant Projects Coordinator. Each coordinator to perform duties as listed in the District <i>Leaders Guide</i>.

Article XIV – Standing Committees

Section 7 – Assembly of Committees

Proposed Amendment: Insert “Standing” following “All.”

Rationale: To clarify which committee members are required to attend the annual Assembly of Committees. Special committee members or ad hoc committee members are not required to attend unless specifically requested by the District President.

Existing bylaw reads:	If adopted, will read:
Article XIV – Standing Committees Section 7 – Assembly of Committees All committee members and officers of the District shall convene annually.	Article XIV – Standing Committees Section 7 – Assembly of Committees All Standing Committee members and officers of the District shall convene annually.

Article XV – Special Committees

Section 5 c. – Special Gift Fund committee – “Lydia’s Legacy”

Proposed Amendment: Strike “first (1st) quarter meeting” and insert “fall meeting.”

Rationale: The fiscal year of the Michigan District ends on April 30th. This amendment would require the annual written financial statement of the Special Gift fund to be submitted at the first regular meeting of the Board after the end of the fiscal year for which it reports rather than during the fiscal year.

Existing bylaw reads:	If adopted, will read:
Article XV – Special Committees Section 5 c. – Special Gift Fund Committee – “Lydia’s Legacy” Submit an annual written financial statement of the Fund to the Board at the first (1 st) quarter meeting.	Article XV – Special Committees Section 5 c. – Special Gift Fund Committee – “Lydia’s Legacy” Submit an annual written financial statement of the Fund to the Board at the fall meeting.

Article XVII – Mission Grants

Section 2 – Selection Process

Proposed Amendment: Add Section 2 c. that approves of electronic voting for mission grants prior to the actual convention and Section 2 d. which indicates that electronic voting results must be formally ratified at the convention.

Rationale: To give permission for electronic voting for mission grants and to formally secure the validity of the results.

Existing bylaw reads:	If adopted, will read:
Article XVII – Mission Grants Section 2 – Selection Process None	Article XVII – Mission Grants Section 2 – Selection Process c. Electronic voting for mission grants may be done prior to the District convention. d. The results of electronic voting for mission grants shall be ratified at the upcoming District convention.

Article XXI – Meetings

Proposed Amendment: Add Article XXI Section 1 to allow electronic meetings and electronic voting at these meetings. Existing Article XXI will be renumbered as Article XXII and the new Article XXI will be inserted after Article XX. Subsequent Articles will be renumbered.

Rationale: To allow electronic meetings.

Existing bylaw reads:	If adopted, will read:
None	<p>Article XXI – Electronic Meetings Section 1. Electronic Meetings and Voting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The board of directors, executive committee, all committees, and the district convention shall be authorized to meet through electronic means so long as all the members can simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting.b. The district president will determine if a district meeting will be held in person or electronically.c. A committee chairman will determine if a committee meeting will be held in person or electronically.d. The Executive Committee will determine if the District Convention will be held in person or electronically.e. Electronic meetings shall be held in conformance with Standing Rules as set forth in the Leader’s Guide.f. Votes may be taken electronically outside of meetings but shall be ratified at the next in-person or electronic meeting.