

## BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF PRESIDENT MATTHEW C. HARRISON

Address..... 580 Spragues Mill Court, Ballwin, MO 63011  
Birth Date..... March 14, 1962  
Birthplace.....Sioux City, IA  
Wife's Maiden Name..... Kathy Schimm  
Number of Children.....2  
College.....Morningside College, Sioux City, IA (1984)  
Seminary.....Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (1989)  
Other Degrees..... S.T.M., Concordia Theological Seminary,  
Fort Wayne; LL.D., Concordia University, Ann Arbor; D.D.,  
Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne; Graduate Studies,  
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.  
Member of Synod Congregations.....56 years  
Rostered Member of Synod.....27 years  
Year of Ordination.....1991

### **Pastorates (Congregations, Years)**

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Westgate, IA..... 1991-1995  
Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN..... 1995-2001  
Village Lutheran Church, Ladue, MO.....2010-Present

### **Other Full-Time Positions (Position, Employer, Years)**

Missionary to Native Canadians, "Lutheran Association of Missionaries  
And Pilots" (LAMP)..... 1983-1984  
Graduate Assistant, Concordia Theological Seminary..... 1990-1991  
Executive Director, World Relief and Human Care, The Lutheran Church

—Missouri Synod..... 2001-2010  
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.....2010-Present

**Other Synod Offices (Position, Years)**

Board for Missions..... 1993-1995  
Founding President, National Lutheran Housing Support Co....2004-10

**Other District Offices (Position, Years)**

District Task Force on Rural Ministry..... 1993-1995  
Synod Nominations Committee..... 1994-1995

**Other Significant Service or Experience (Type of Service, Years)**

Co-Founder, St. Peter's/Zion Project for Neighborhood Renewal  
..... 1995-2001  
Project Renew (Neighborworks Housing) Board..... 1995-2001  
Fort Wayne Urban League Building Committee.....1999

Catholic/Lutheran Dialogue; LCMS President's Church Relations  
Cabinet ..... 1996-2001;  
2001-2010

Lutheran Services in America Board; Lutheran World Relief....2001-2010

Managed Synod's national response to disasters in Haiti, Asian Tsunami,  
Katrina, etc. .... 2001-  
2010

## Selected Writings

### As author

- “Abraham Calov on Eastern Orthodoxy.” *LOGIA* 9 no. 4 (Reformation 2000): 5-16.
- *Christ Have Mercy: How to Put Your Faith in Action*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2008.
- *The Church is a Mercy Place!* St. Louis, MO: Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Board of World Relief and Human Care, 2004.
- *The Church’s Role of Mercy in the Community*. St. Louis, MO: Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Board of World Relief and Human Care, 2004.
- “Hermann Sasse and EKID—1848: The Death of the Lutheran Church.” *LOGIA* 4 no. 4 (Reformation 1995): 41-48.
- *In the Beginning: A Collection of Essays and Bible Studies on the Sanctity of Early Human Life*. With Charles P. Arand and James Lamb. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2007.
- *It’s Time: LCMS Unity and Mission: the Real Problem We Face and How to Solve It*. N.p., 2008.
- *A Little Book on Joy: the Secret of Living a Good News Life in a Bad News World*. Fort Wayne, IN: Lutheran Legacy, 2009. Re-published by: St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2011.
- “Lutheran Missions Must Lead to Lutheran Churches.” *LOGIA* 7 no. 3 (Trinity 1998): 29-34.
- “Martin Chemnitz and FC X.” In *Mysteria Dei: Essays in Honor of Kurt Marquart*. Eds. Paul McCain and John Stephenson. Fort Wayne, IN: Concordia Theological Seminary Press, 1999. Pp. 79-100.
- “Martin Luther on Holy Baptism: The Catechism and the Von der heiligen Taufe Predigten (1534).” In *Propter Christum: Christ at the Center—Essays in Honor of Daniel Preus*. Eds. Scott R. Murray, et.al. N.p.: Luther Academy, 2013. Pp. 85-96.
- *Sanctification and Charitable Works in Lutheran Theology*. St. Louis, MO: Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Board of World Relief and Human Care, 2006.
- *Second Thoughts about Living Together*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2005.
- *Theology for Mercy*. St. Louis, MO: Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Board of World Relief and Human Care, 2004.

- *Theological Reflections on Confessional Lutheran Involvement in Neighborhood Renewal*. St. Louis, MO: Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Board of World Relief and Human Care, n.d.
- *What Does it Mean to be Lutheran in Social Ministry*. St. Louis, MO: Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Board of World Relief and Human Care, n.d.

#### As translator and/or editor

- Brohm, Theodore Julius. *Mercy and the Lutheran Congregation*. Translation of the essay “Intentional Care of the Poor and the Sick is Essential for the Well-Being of a Christian Congregation.” St. Louis, MO: Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Board of World Relief and Human Care, 2006.
- Chemnitz, Martin and Andreae, Jacob. *Church Order for Braunschweig-Wolfenbüttel* [1569]. With Jacob Corzine, Andrew Smith, and Matthew Carver, trans. and eds. *Chemnitz’s Works*, vol. 9. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2015.
- Elert, Werner. “The Visitation Office in the Church’s Reorganization.” With Roland Ziegler, trans. In *The Restoration of Creation in Christ: Essays in Honor of Dean O. Wenthe*. Arthur Just and Paul Grime, eds. Saint Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2014. Pp. 175-196.
- Gerhard, Johann. *Meditations on Divine Mercy: A Classic Treasury of Devotional Prayers*. Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2003.
- Löhe, Wilhelm. *Löhe on Mercy: Six Chapters for Everyone, the Seventh for the Servants of Mercy, 1858-1860*. With Adriane Dorr Heins, Philip Hendrickson, and Holger Sonntag, eds. and trans. St. Louis: Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, World Relief and Human Care, 2006.
- Sasse, Hermann. *Christ and His Church: Essays by Hermann Sasse*. With Ronald R. Feuerhahn and Paul T. McCain. Office of the President of the LCMS, 1997.
- Sasse, Hermann. “The Church’s Confession.” *LOGIA* 1 no. 1 (Reformation 1992): 5-8.
- Sasse, Hermann. *The Lonely Way: Selected Essays and Letters*. With Ronald R. Feuerhahn, eds. and trans. 2 vols. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2001.
- Sasse, Hermann. *Union and Confession*. With Ronald R. Feuerhahn and Paul T. McCain. St. Louis, MO: Office of the President of the LCMS, 1997.
- Walther, C.F.W. “The Pastor’s Responsibility to Care for the Physical Needs of Members of His Congregation.” In *Walther on Mercy*. St. Louis, MO: Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Board of World Relief and Human Care, 2006.

- Walther, C.F.W. *The Church & The Office of The Ministry*. Revised translation and edition. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2012.
- Walther, C.F.W., Friedrich Wyneken, H. C. Schwan, Franz Pieper, Friedrich Pfotenhauer, W. Sihler, and Theodor Julius Brohm. *At Home in the House of My Fathers: Presidential Sermons, Essays, Letters, and Addresses from the Missouri Synod's Great Era of Unity and Growth*. Fort Wayne, IN: Lutheran Legacy, 2009.
- *Women Pastors?: The Ordination of Women in Biblical Lutheran Perspective: a Collection of Essays*. With John T. Pless, eds. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2009.

## **2016 Personal Statement**

“The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). That’s the entire reason for the Church. I said I’d lead by conviction, not coercion (Gal. 5:13f.) By grace, I’ve tried to do

that. I’m a sinner. I refuse (like Walther himself) to put mission and doctrine at odds (1 Tim. 1). This is our moment, clearly. We’ve increased missionaries. Our finances are in order. I’ve

shared the domestic demographic challenge. We know what is needed: (1) outreach to all, (2) planting/revitalizing congregations, (3) retaining children/youth, (4) healthy workers. We’re

so blessed! (Col. 1:11). “Take courage” (Acts 23:11). “Let’s go!” (Mark 1:38).

## **Other Accomplishments of the Harrison Administration (2010-present)**

### **International Mission**

- Doubled the number of missionaries on the field to approximately 130 full-time, career missionaries.
- With the doubling of full-time, career missionaries, there are currently a record 1,700+ congregations supporting these international missionaries. Missionary support is higher today than we have seen it in more than a decade.
- Established and implemented a confessional and orthodox approach to world mission: “Lutheran missions must lead to Lutheran churches.”
- Put in place confessional, experienced, and competent Regional Directors to run our international mission efforts, including: Ted Krey, Jim Krikava, Chuck Ferry, et al.

- Launched the Global Seminary Initiative (GSI), in partnership with both LCMS seminaries, which has provided \$3.8 million to send professors overseas to provide theological education as requested by international partners, and to bring dozens of future leaders to Concordia Seminary-Saint Louis (CSL) and Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne (CSTFW) for study. (see [www.lcms.org/makeagift/gsi](http://www.lcms.org/makeagift/gsi) )
- Wrote “Theological Statement of Mission for the 21st Century” to provide theological guidance and direction for mission activity. (see [www.ctsfw.net/media/pdfs/HarrisonATheologicalStatementforMission.pdf](http://www.ctsfw.net/media/pdfs/HarrisonATheologicalStatementforMission.pdf) )
- The largest Lutheran church bodies in the world are seeking our assistance, especially in theological education. With our sound, confessional theology, Lutherans around the world are sharpening their preaching of the Gospel.
- Our world mission efforts through Office of International Mission (OIM) continue to be attentive to the needs of our many church partners and their local and cultural sensitivities. Examples:
  - o Assisting our German partner (SELK) in its evangelization of Muslims in Berlin and elsewhere.
  - o Sent a seminary professor to the Philippines for the first time in 20 years.
  - o Developed training program for deaconesses in Latin America and elsewhere, providing a faithful alternative for the service of women in the church.
- Opened a Spanish-language confessional Lutheran seminary in the Latin American Region (Dominican Republic).

### **National Mission**

- Engaged a fact-based analysis of LCMS demographic decline with the work of world-class demographer George Hawley (University of Alabama) and others:
  - o George Hawley, *Demography, Culture, and the Decline of America’s Christian Denominations* (Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books, 2017).
  - o George Hawley, “A District-level Examination of Demographic Trends and Membership Trends within LCMS Districts,” *Journal for Lutheran Mission* (December 2016): 2-6.
  - o George Hawley, “The LCMS in the Face of Demographic and Social Change: A Social Science Perspective,” *Journal for Lutheran Mission* (December 2016): 7-84.
  - o Ryan C. MacPherson, “Generational Generosity: Handing Down Our Faith to Our Children and Our Children’s Children,” *Journal for Lutheran Mission* (December 2016): 85-121.
  - o These studies have been helpful in dispelling myths and in taking an honest look at the demographic trends at work today—generating faithful, mission-oriented responses in our LCMS approach to national mission.
- Renewed focus on outreach, revitalization, and church planting:
  - o *Every One His Witness*—Synod’s first comprehensive evangelism training program in 35 years! Soon to become available in Spanish. (see [www.everyonehiswitness.org](http://www.everyonehiswitness.org) )

o *re:Vitality*—assists congregations in improving their outreach to new members, follow-up to inactive members, and conduct basic strategic planning. (see [www.lcms.org/church-revitalization](http://www.lcms.org/church-revitalization) )

o *A Resource for Church Planting*— provides a step-by-step approach to chartering a new congregation, adaptable to any context. (see [www.lcms.org/how-weserve/national/church-planting](http://www.lcms.org/how-weserve/national/church-planting) )

- Major expansion of conferences, webinars, and ongoing support of Rural and Small Town Mission (RSTM). This work supports pastors, professional church workers and lay leaders by equipping them to meet the unique challenges of leading Christ-centered outreach in rural and small-town communities. (see [www.lcms.org/how-weserve/national/rural-and-small-town-mission](http://www.lcms.org/how-weserve/national/rural-and-small-town-mission) )

- Completion of a major study called “Retention of Lutheran Millennials: 2017 LCMS Study of Young Adults,” which surveyed 2,000 millennials, current and former LCMS members. (see [www.youthsource.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Congregational-Data-Webinar\\_pt1.pdf](http://www.youthsource.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Congregational-Data-Webinar_pt1.pdf) )

- Launch of Lutheran Young Adult Corp. (see [www.lcms.org/young-adult-corps](http://www.lcms.org/young-adult-corps) )

- Higher Things designated as an RSO.

- Improvements in LCMS National Youth Gathering.

- Creation and expansion of LCMS U, with a renewed emphasis on retaining LCMS youth through their college years, and the largest campus ministry gatherings in the history of the LCMS. (see [www.lcmsu.org](http://www.lcmsu.org) )

- Blue Ribbon Task Force Study on LCMS schools soon to be released.

## Mercy

- LCMS World Relief and Human Care has responded to major disasters around the world as well as the U.S., including Superstorm Sandy (2012) and Hurricane Harvey (2017).

- With Hurricane Harvey in Texas, Puerto Rico, and elsewhere, the LCMS Disaster Relief received more than \$10 million in gifts received and in various stages of being distributed. (All of this with no discernable negative impact on giving to other LCMS mission or ministry programs.) In Texas alone, we have:

- o provided 8 full-time staffed disaster response centers across the affected area.

- o provided 2 disaster response warehouses and distribution centers with full-time staff.

- o overseen the work of over 110,000 volunteer hours.

- o served more than 800 homes.

- o distributed more than 2,000 pieces of furniture.

- Continued support and attendance at National March for Life and LCMS Life Conferences. (see [www.lcms.org/events/lifeconference](http://www.lcms.org/events/lifeconference) )

- Regular sending of Medical Mercy Teams to Africa and elsewhere (see [www.lcms.org/mercy-medical-teams](http://www.lcms.org/mercy-medical-teams) )
- Ongoing support of Veterans of the Cross and Soldiers of the Cross for church workers in crisis. (see [www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/serving-church-workers/veterans-of-thecross](http://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/serving-church-workers/veterans-of-thecross) and [www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/serving-church-workers/soldiers-of-thecross](http://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/serving-church-workers/soldiers-of-thecross) )
- Ongoing support of GracePlace, Shepherd’s Canyon, and Doxology for the equipping and care of church workers.

## Life Together

- Carried out major restructuring of LCMS Inc. following 2010 Convention. Realignment of all departments and personnel. Reduction in force by 66 positions. Continued fine-tuning since then. Currently at same position count as post-restructuring.
- Two mission boards—Board for National Mission (BNM) and the Board for International Mission (BIM)—were established by the 2010 Restructuring and are running very well. These boards set the policies and parameters by which the Office for National Mission and the Office for International Mission operate and carry out the seven mission priorities set by the Synod in Convention. (See below.)
- 2016 Convention established seven mission priorities, which guide and prioritize the work of the Office of National Mission (ONM) and the Office of International Mission (OIM):
  - o Plant, sustain, and revitalize Lutheran churches
  - o Support and expand theological education
  - o Perform human care in close proximity to Word and Sacrament ministries
  - o Collaborate with the Synod’s members and partners to enhance mission effectiveness
  - o Promote and nurture the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of pastors and professional church workers
  - o Enhance early childhood, elementary and secondary education, and youth ministry
  - o Strengthen and support the Lutheran family in living out God’s design
- Brought in new, confessional, experienced staff in numerous leadership positions, most recently: Bob Zagore (ONM); Jim Baneck (Pastoral Education); Dan McMiller (OIM). Also called Chief Mission Officer (CMO) Kevin Robson in 2015, who brings a high level of theological integrity and an MBA from the University of Chicago School of Business.
- The Koinonia Project has brought together differing parties in districts, circuits, and the Council of Presidents (COP) for theological dialogue and an increased understanding and agreement under the Word of God. Widely and well received. (see Herb Mueller, “Koinonia Project,” *Lutheran Witness* (November 2014):4-5)
- Established and implemented regular District Visitations, made by the President, 1st VP and a regional VP once every triennium, “to build each other up and encourage each other in the mission of Christ.” Visitation teams are now on their second round of making visits, this time

with a focus on equipping circuit visitors. The materials they use are available at: [www.lcms.org/about/leadership/president/district-visitation](http://www.lcms.org/about/leadership/president/district-visitation)

- Addressed the Licensed Lay Deacon (LLD) problem of men serving as pastors without the benefit of call and ordination. Carrying out a colloquy process to the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Roster for those LLDs regularly preaching and presiding:
  - o Resolution 13-02A established the process for bringing onto the roster those licensed lay deacons doing regular pastoral work. It was adopted with some 75% at the 2016 Convention.
  - o A policy manual and colloquy application process have been prepared and implemented by the 1st VP and a committee appointed by the COP.
  - o A Colloquy Committee, under the leadership of the 1st VP, is working effectively with the various district presidents to form regional colloquy committees (as directed by Resolution 13-02A).
  - o We plan to have about 65% of the LLDs for whom Res. 13-02A applies through the colloquy process before the 2019 Convention.
  - o The remaining 35% should be finished within a year of the 2019 Convention.
- Developed and implemented successful celebration of the 500th Reformation Anniversary.
- Established *Journal of Lutheran Mission* for the promulgation of orthodox missional theology. (see [www.lcms.org/news/publications/journal-of-lutheran-mission](http://www.lcms.org/news/publications/journal-of-lutheran-mission) )
- Created *Protecting Your Ministry* book with the Alliance for Defending Freedom for our congregations, schools, districts. (see [www.blogs.lcms.org/2016/synod-provides-legal-guide-amid-increased-intrusions](http://www.blogs.lcms.org/2016/synod-provides-legal-guide-amid-increased-intrusions) )
- Launched the entire “Witness, Mercy, Life Together” theme, which has been well received throughout the entire Synod.

## Church Relations

- As the LWF’s abandonment of biblical sexual ethics continues to take effect around the world, a large number of Lutheran churches are looking to the LCMS for theological leadership.
- We experience continued interaction with the Ethiopian Church (Mekane Yesus; 9 million members); increased contact with Tanzanian Lutheran Church (6 million members). We have entered church fellowship talks with the Malagasy Lutheran Church (4 million members). We currently enjoy some form of relationship with 79 Lutheran church bodies worldwide, representing 40 million Christians.
- Through the work of Al Collver, the LCMS, via the International Lutheran Council (ILC), is involved in an informal dialogue with the Roman Catholic Church through the Pontifical Council on Christian Unity (PCPCU). ILC is now seen by the Vatican as a confessional Lutheran alternative to its formerly exclusive dialogues with the liberal LWF.
- LCMS has engaged in dialogue with Anglican Church of North America (ACNA) to find areas where the churches can cooperate in externals, particularly in the area of religious freedom.

- LCMS has engaged in dialogue with North American Lutheran Church (NALC) to find areas where the churches can cooperate in externals, particularly in the area of religious freedom.
- LCMS has engaged in an informal conversation with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS). Our three church bodies are the closest they have been since the suspension of fellowship more than 60 years ago.
- 15 church bodies have requested fellowship with LCMS. About half of these may come to the 2019 Convention.
- The LCMS supports the ILC, which at its World Conference on September 25, 2018, saw 17 new church bodies join its membership. As of Fall 2018 there are 54 church bodies which are members of the ILC, representing a total of 7.15 million Lutherans across the globe.
- LCMS has 35 partners in altar and pulpit fellowship.

### **Seminaries and Pastoral Education**

- Expansion/renewal of Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS) for new pastors and their wives. (see [www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/education/pastoral/post-seminary-applied-learning-and-support](http://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/education/pastoral/post-seminary-applied-learning-and-support) )
- Global Seminary Initiative (GSI; see above) also sends funds to the seminaries in the form of tuition assistance for international students and support of seminary professors teaching abroad. (see [www.lcms.org/makeagift/gsi](http://www.lcms.org/makeagift/gsi) )
- Joint Seminary Fund raises nearly \$2 million a year, which is divided between the two seminaries. (see [www.lcms.org/seminary-education/seminary-topics/lcms-joint-seminaryfund](http://www.lcms.org/seminary-education/seminary-topics/lcms-joint-seminaryfund) )
- 2016 Convention amended Bylaw 3.10.4 to create a “Pastoral Formation Committee” to provide for greater coordination and collaboration between our two seminaries.
- Developed the Preach the Word Initiative, to assist pastors in improving their preaching skills. (see [www.lcms.org/about/leadership/president/preach-the-word](http://www.lcms.org/about/leadership/president/preach-the-word) )

### **Concordia University System (CUS)**

- Called Dean Wenthe to CUS, who is bringing the universities together to move forward and work together in a united front against the challenges of our day. Also called Paul Philp as CUS assistant to Wenthe.
- 2016 Convention approved a Lutheran Identity Statement for its CUS schools, which has also been adopted by its presidents. (see [www.blogs.lcms.org/2016/convention-delegates-approve-lutheran-identity-statement-for-concordia-university-system](http://www.blogs.lcms.org/2016/convention-delegates-approve-lutheran-identity-statement-for-concordia-university-system) )
- Harrison provided strong leadership in the face of a gay advocacy group at CU-Portland, resulting in the retirement of Charles Schlimpert, a visitation by Wenthe and CUS officials, and the beginnings of CU-P heading in the right direction. We are hopeful.
- Dan Gard installed as president of CU-Chicago.

## **Finances**

- Since October 2010, we have seen a reduction of Synod indebtedness by 40%. Internal indebtedness + CUS historic debt has been reduced from about \$37 million to about \$22 million.
- The Board of Directors (BOD) has identified international properties able to be sold for anticipated significant financial benefit to Synod and reduction or even elimination of CUS debt.
- As a response to 2016 Res. 9-04A, will publish a first-ever “annual report” in the November 2018 *Lutheran Witness*.
- Also developing a monthly “dashboard” on Synod finances for *Reporter* to increase financial transparency by reporting in a more simplified and timely manner.

## **Presidential Approval of Theologically Sound Leadership**

- Bart Day at Lutheran Church-Extension Fund.
- Larry Rast at CTS-Fort Wayne.
- Dean Wenthe and Paul Philp at CUS.
- Dan Gard at CU-Chicago.
- Daniel Harmelink at Concordia Historical Institute.
- Frank Simek as LCMS Chief Administrative Officer.
- John Sias elected by Synod as Secretary of Synod.
- Numerous faithful individuals working at the IC and deployed as international missionaries. The International Center is in an entirely different place than it was in 2010.

## **Council of Presidents and Ecclesiastical Supervision**

- COP now reviewing pastors on candidate status at every COP meeting.
- COP engaging with Koinonia Project process as a body.
- Harrison teaching theology at every COP meeting.
- Harrison working fraternally with district presidents to build and maintain doctrinal unity, especially regarding synod expectations on worship and communion practice.
- Matthew Becker situation was brought to resolution and conclusion.
- CCM restored right of accuser to appeal to Synod President re: ecclesiastical supervision.
- Office of 1st VP producing substantive Winkel Bible studies.

## Public Square

- Harrison testified strongly before Congress in 2012 regarding religious freedom and HHS Mandates. (see [www.wmltblog.org/2012/02/a-brief-catalog-of-press-stories-regarding-president-harrisons-testimony-before-congress-on-religious-freedom](http://www.wmltblog.org/2012/02/a-brief-catalog-of-press-stories-regarding-president-harrisons-testimony-before-congress-on-religious-freedom) )
- Launched Free to be Faithful campaign to educate and move people to take informed action to protect religious freedom and all the cultural issues that pertain to it: confessing the faith in the public square, marriage, defending the sanctity of human life, etc. (see [www.lcms.org/social-issues/free-to-be-faithful](http://www.lcms.org/social-issues/free-to-be-faithful) )
- Conducted successful capital campaign and launched Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, DC, staffed by Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz. (see [www.lcrlfreedom.org](http://www.lcrlfreedom.org) )

## LCMS Communications

- Messaging and Voice of Synod. Our communications team works across multiple platforms to faithfully and consistently communicate what the Synod believes, teaches, and confesses as we bear witness to Christ and share His mercy in our life together.
- Social Media. We are focused on reaching a broader audience through the use of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and have watched the number of followers grow exponentially over the past 6 years. Our Facebook followers number 139,000+ and growing. We are the largest Lutheran church body Facebook page.
- *Lutherans Engage the World*. We launched this new periodical to inform all donors and rostered workers about our work of sharing the Gospel in word and deed across the nation and around the world. This has resulted in a growing donor base and increase in unrestricted and less restricted gifts.
- *Lutheran Witness*. Our Synod's official and storied periodical has been refocused on teaching the faith by exploring contemporary topics in light of our confession with timely and critical themes, engaging writers, and outstanding layout and design.
- Reshaped the *Reporter* as Synod's only news periodical to cover LCMS activities nationally and internationally.
- Photography and Videography. Added a professional photojournalist and videographer allowing us to show the work of the church through compelling visual imagery that conveys what we confess and documents how that confession is lived out in the work we do. (see [www.photo.lcms.org/index](http://www.photo.lcms.org/index) )
- KFJO AM. Restructured and reorganized Synod's radio station and internet podcast site to offer confessional Lutheran talk radio and music programming 24/7. "KFJO Radio: Christ for you. Anytime. Anywhere." Also brought Issues Etc. back to KFJO AM as its flagship program. (see [www.kfjo.org](http://www.kfjo.org) )

## Other

- Synod's Board of Directors, under the capable chairmanship of Michael Kumm, has exhibited calm and theologically sound leadership through a variety of challenging issues.

- Publication of 2017 *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, which is selling very well and helping LCMS pastors and people to respond faithfully to today's challenges.
- Conducted successful capital campaign and restoration of the Old Latin School in Wittenberg, Germany in time for 2017 Reformation Anniversary. It now provides a confessional Lutheran embassy and study center in the heart of Europe. (see [www.oldlatinschool.org](http://www.oldlatinschool.org) ).
- Increasing oversight of our three international schools (Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Hanoi) to begin to establish a confessional Lutheran identity there.
- Encouraged the successful launch of Lutheran Federal Credit Union. (see [www.lutheranfcu.org](http://www.lutheranfcu.org) )
- CPH has produced a plethora of faithful and theologically rich resources including: *Lutheran Study Bible* in Spanish; a new translation of Walther's *Church and Office*; and volumes such as *Women Pastors?* and *Closed Communion?*
- Through the President's appointment of some 300 theologically sound doctrinal reviewers, these unsung readers have maintained the theological integrity of thousands of publications throughout Synod and its various entities.

### Various Intangibles

- Synod is calm, especially relative to the preceding administration. A good Synod President is like a first responder; no one notices the first responder until there is a crisis.
- All the normal Synod functions have continued and been carried out without significant incident. This may seem obvious but is something most people don't think about.
- President Harrison's administration creates an environment in Synod that is friendly to Confessional Lutherans and allows them space and freedom to carry out their activities. Under a different administration this would not exist.

## Future Priorities of the Harrison Administration

### National Mission

- Call for a renewed, intentional, synod-wide focus on retention and outreach to address the demographic challenge we are facing. A working group, headed up by Heath Curtis, is working on this project, with the goal of providing a report in time for the 2019 Convention.
- Identify those places in America where the LCMS should be but is not, and focus there on church and school planting.
- Increase avenues of support and encouragement for our congregations and church workers in the midst of our demographic challenge.
- Increase district and congregational connections to immigrant and ethnic communities.

### International Mission

- Continue to grow and support relationships with emerging and potential church partners.
- Continue to build our foreign capacity for world confessional revival.

### **Life Together**

- Complete Licensed Lay Deacon colloquy process.
- Continued expansion of Koinonia Project.

### **Finances**

- Eliminate CUS Debt through the sale of Hong Kong property.
- Increase financial transparency by finalizing financial dashboard to be published regularly in *Reporter* and Annual Report in *Lutheran Witness*. Striving toward simplified financial reporting.
- Maintain financial diligence through realistic budgeting and monitoring, and attention to mission advancement processes.

### **CUS**

- There are currently 4 CUS presidencies to be filled in the next 12-18 months (CU-Irvine, CU-Portland, CU-Chicago, and CU-Saint Paul). The President of Synod has “veto power” over any and all names on the final slate developed by the respective institution’s board of regents. In light of the cultural challenges we face, Harrison is committed to approving only the strongest theological leaders to head our CUS institutions.
- Continue to strengthen our CUS institutions theologically. Work toward shared efficiencies and a united front against the cultural onslaught.
- Work to bring CU-Portland back into the fold with a clear commitment and renewed emphasis on confessional LCMS identity.

### **Seminaries**

- Dale Meyer has indicated that he will retire as president of CSL when his current five year term is complete in 2020. The next president of this institution will be critical in setting the future direction of CSL. The President of Synod will be one of four electors, the three others being: the chair of the BOD; the CSL Board of Regents (BOR) as one collective vote; and the COP representative to the CSL BOR.
- Working toward greater cooperation and shared efficiencies between the two seminaries.
- Both seminaries are dedicating significant resources to increasing their recruitment numbers to meet the needs of Synod’s congregations for qualified pastors. “Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matt. 9:38).