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Greetings to the pastors and congregations of the ND LCMS,

I pray the Lord's blessings on you this day!

There has been great concern within the District BOD, in the ND District, and for me myself because of the COVID-19 pandemic that has invaded our state more than ever at this time. Especially is this a concern about our scheduled District Convention, January 24-27, 2021, in Fargo, ND.

This week I have been in Zoom Meetings with the Council of Presidents (COP) and we have had discussion about District Conventions in 2021. It is not up to the COP to postpone District Conventions, it is the decision of the Synod President, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, to take it to the synod congregations to follow their wishes. The COP did take a poll among us to see what the consensus was of the District Presidents and it was unanimous that President Harrison submits to the Synod congregations to postpone all District Conventions for the year 2021 to be done in the year 2022.

Because this will take time for announcement to the congregations and for congregations to respond it could be February 2021 before this task is accomplished.

Therefore, because of the unanimous vote of the COP to postpone the 2021 District Conventions because of COVID-19 and because we as a District have to make a decision soon if we are going to have our convention before the vote of the synod congregations happens **I am postponing our January 2021 District Convention until January 2022.**

What this means for you is that all elected district officials will remain in office and we will continue the work of the district for one added year. Term limits will not be affected. The three (3) year schedule of district conventions and Synod conventions will remain on a three year schedule with this triennium having 4 years in it instead of 3 years.

We will start the time line of forums, nominations, overtures, delegates, Circuit Visitors, and so forth all over again this coming year for the District Convention in January 2022.

If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to call me.

Blessings in Christ,  
President Arie D. Bertsch



