

The Doctrinal Record of the Missouri Synod

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Purpose: To identify and index the doctrinal resolutions of the Lutheran Church--
Missouri Synod, from the first synodical convention of 1847 to the present.

Doctrine

"Doctrine" includes all statements of the official teaching of the church. Included are statements of policy which specifically and directly interpret a doctrinal position. Affirmations of previous statements are noted.

Resolutions and Comments

"Resolution" is an express statement adopted by the Synod in convention. In standard resolution format, a synodical resolution is limited to the paragraphs which begin "be it resolved." Before this format was adopted, resolutions lie within the scope of the primary purpose of the synodical declaration. Detailed preambles, doctrinal discussions and speeches not specifically adopted by the Synod as well as references to supporting doctrines are noted in the second index, "Significant Doctrinal Comments." Before the adoption of standard resolution format, the distinction between a resolution and a comment is subtle and researchers are encouraged to make their own decisions based on the original context.

Reference System

Volume and page references for the years 1847 to 1860 are found in the first volume of the *Synodal-Bericht* (the compendium second edition, published in St. Louis in 1876). Since this volume repaginates the 1860 report from page 1, these pages are cited as belonging to volume 1b, that is, the second pagination in the first volume.

The Synod also published these convention reports in individual volumes after each convention, each beginning with paginated from page 1. These were also published together in a single bound volume, again with each report having its own pagination. To correlate the page numbers of these other documents with this index (which follows the 1876 edition), note the following chart:

<u>Year</u>	<u>number of pages in the 1st edition</u>	<u>page number references in the 1876 edition</u>	<u>number of pages in the 1876 edition</u>
1847	16	1-24	24
1848	28	25-66	42
1849	27	69-108	40
1850	46	111-156	46
1851	29	159-189	31
1852	30	193-225	33
1853	46	229-275	47
1854	21	277-296	20
1857	110	307-409	103

With this chart, the original page in the first edition can be approximated by interpolation from this index. For example, the index notes that a comment about Holy Absolution is found on page 42 of the continuous 1876 volume. From the table, one notes that this falls in the 1848 convention, on the 18th page dedicated to this convention in the indexed volume (the first 24 pages cover the 1847 convention; $42-24=18$). The indexed volume had a total of 42 pages dedicated to 1848. The 18th page was about 43 percent the way through this material ($18/42$ is about .43). Since the first edition of this material had a total of 28 pages, researchers who have the first edition should look about 43 percent of the way through the material, on about page 12 ($.43 \times 28$ is about 12). Unfortunately, the system is not exact and may err by a page in either direction.

Volume and page references for the years 1863 to 1872 refer to the second volume of the *Synodal-Bericht*. Since this volume repaginates every convention report from page 1, pages are cited as belonging to volume 2a, 2b, 2c and 2d. This holds true for all subsequent volumes including more than one convention. The last convention referred to as a volume is the convention of 1935, volume 14. Thereafter, the "Vol." column represents the convention number, beginning with the 37th (1938).

For conventions published in double column format (1962 and following), page numbers are followed by a letter indicating the column (a or b).

Language

With the exception of the conventions of 1914 and 1917, all convention references before 1926 are to the German editions. Volume and page references for the years 1914 and 1917 refer to the full English translations of the convention proceedings found at the back of the seventh and eighth volumes of the *Synodal Bericht*. From 1926 onward, the English version of the proceedings is sufficiently detailed to warrant its continuous use (see resolutions "Official Proceedings of Synod Unabridged Also in English" and "English the Convention Language," pp. 149-151).

Excluded material

From 1863 onwards, no attempt is made to index the president's opening speech (*Synodalrede*) since this speech never contains doctrinal resolutions. For the same reason, reports from the synodical high schools and colleges were not read past 1896. Since the reports and speeches in the English convention material is readily accessible, "Significant Doctrinal Comments" for these proceedings are limited to "whereas" statements in the resolution format and doctrinal comments found in policy statements officially approved by Synod.

Other indexes

A general register of the synodical and district reports of 1847 to 1863 can be found on pages 100 ff. of volume 2a. Proceedings from the 1938 convention and those from 1971 following contain a general topical index for those specific conventions. The proceedings of 1953 contain an index of the Common Confession on pages 521-525.

Word processing

Any word processing software will allow searches for specific words throughout the index. If the index is used in Word Perfect format, it can be easily sorted and subsorted by topic, subtopic, date, volume and page.