

Minutes

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
63rd Biennial Convention
July 27–30, 2015
Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Michigan

Wed., July 29, 2015

The morning session was called to order by President Mark Schroeder at 8 a.m. The opening devotion was led by Rev. Daniel Sims, pastor at Zion, Columbus, Wis., who based his message on Galatians 3:26, 27. The Michigan Lutheran Seminary Concert Choir beautified the devotion with the hymn, “Yes, Jesus Loves Me.” The organist was Mrs. Rebecca Berg, instructor at Michigan Lutheran Seminary.

Second Vice President Joel Voss announced his acceptance of the call to serve another term as the second vice president.

Dr. Robert Klindworth, chairman of the Elections Committee, opened nominations from the floor for each of the 16 board and commission positions up for election. There were no nominations from the floor and the opportunity to offer nominations was closed. The election for each of the positions was conducted. After the ballots were collected, the election was declared closed.

Rev. Larry Schlomer, administrator of WELS World Missions, reported for World Missions utilizing a digital presentation. Two videos from the WELS Missions, Moments with Missionaries series were shown, including *China: Now is the Time* and *India: Bible Woman*.

Rev. Charles Westra, chairman of the Board for Home Missions, and Rev. Keith Free, administrator of WELS Home Missions, reported for Home Missions. Digital presentations were utilized as well as video depicting the work in St. George, Utah. Rev. Pheng Moua was introduced, a Pastoral Studies Institute graduate who is serving as a synod convention delegate. A video was shown depicting the work of the Church Extension Fund as it supplies funding to home mission congregations.

Rev. John Moldstad, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), addressed the convention. He mentioned what a privilege it is for him to address the WELS convention as the two synods continue in fellowship. He mentioned the doctrinal study undertaken at the recent ELS convention. He shared additional ELS news regarding recent resolutions. He mentioned the growing number of pastoral vacancies. Also noted were ministry to the military, Christ in media, and an encouragement to continue in faith and love boldly. “Battle on,” Moldstad encouraged, because we trust the Supreme Commander who has already won the victory. He was thanked for his message.

Announcements were made, including the showing of a video greeting from Wisconsin Lutheran College. At 10:15 a.m., a 20-minute break was declared.

After the break, Mr. Bill Ziche, president of Northwestern Publishing House, addressed the assembly utilizing a digital presentation to share news about the ministry of the publishing house.

Rev. John Braun, chairman of the Reformation 500 Committee, presented a digital presentation about the committee's preparations for the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.

The following individuals presented presentations for the Congregation and Ministry Support Group: Rev. Bryan Gerlach, director of the Commission on Worship, who also reported for the Commission on Youth and Family Ministry; Rev. Michael Schultz, director of the hymnal project; Rev. Michael Hintz, director of the Commission on Evangelism, who also reported for the Commission on Adult Discipleship; Rev. Jonathan Hein, director of the Commission on Congregational Counseling; and Rev. James Behringer, director of the Commission on Special Ministries.

After announcements, the morning session adjourned for lunch with the meal prayers at 12:06 p.m.

President Schroeder called the afternoon session to order at 1:32 p.m. The final reports for the Congregation and Ministry Support Group were presented. Teacher James Rademan, director of the Commission on Lutheran Schools, shared updates from his area, and Rev. Michael Hintz presented a trailer of the new movie, *My Son, My Savior*.

Dr. Robert Klindworth reported for the Elections Committee. He read the list of those elected. Four run-off ballots were required: Board of Appeals, Teacher; Board of Appeals, Layman; Commission on Adult Discipleship, Chairman; and Commission on Youth and Family Ministry, Chairman. After all ballots were collected, the election was declared closed.

Rev. Paul Prange, administrator for Ministerial Education, reported for the Board for Ministerial Education. Videos from each of the schools were shown.

Rev. Robert Hein, chairman of WELS Christian Aid and Relief, presented a video, "Thailand," and a digital presentation describing the work of Christian Aid and Relief.

Rev. Jon Zabell, chairman, Floor Committee #1, President's Report, presented the committee's work. Resolution 01-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution 01-02 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Report No. 1 was read. The committee was thanked.

Rev. Paul Janke, chairman, Floor Committee #3, Commission on Inter-Church Relations, presented the committee's work. Resolution 03-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution 03-02 was amended, then moved and supported. The amended motion carried. Resolution 03-03 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Report 03-01 was read. The committee was thanked.

Rev. James Seelow, chairman, Floor Committee #6, Synodical Council, presented report 06-01. The committee was thanked.

Teacher Frederick Uttech, chairman, Floor Committee #7, Support Services, presented the committee's work. Resolution 07-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Report 07-01 was read. The committee was thanked.

Rev. Adam Horneber, chairman, Floor Committee #8, WELS Historical Institute and WELS Archives, presented the committee's work. Resolution 08-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. The committee was thanked.

A recess was called at 3:03 p.m.

Rev. Heath Butler, chairman, Floor Committee #10, Finance and Budget, presented the committee's work. Resolution 10-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution 10-02 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution 10-03 was moved and supported. The motion carried. The committee was thanked.

Rev. John Boggs, chairman, Floor Committee #11, World Missions and Joint Mission Council, presented the committee's work. Resolution 11-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. The committee was thanked.

Rev. Jason Zahn, chairman, Floor Committee #13, Ministerial Education, presented the committee's work. Resolution 13-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Report 13-01 was read. The committee was thanked.

Rev. Aaron Christie, chairman, Floor Committee #9, Christian Aid and Relief, presented the committee's work. Resolution 09-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Report 09-01 was read. The committee was thanked.

Teacher James Brandt, chairman, Floor Committee #17, Northwestern Publishing House and Publication Coordinating Commission, presented the committee's work. Resolution 17-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution 17-02 was moved and supported. The motion carried. The committee was thanked.

Mr. Joel Rhoads, chairman, Floor Committee #18, Church Extension Fund, presented Report 18-01. The committee was thanked.

Rev. Timothy Bode, chairman, Floor Committee #12, Home Missions, presented Report 12-01. The committee was thanked.

Rev. Charles Vannieuwenhoven, chairman, Floor Committee #21, Ad Hoc Commission 2, presented the committee's work. Resolution 21-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution 21-02 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution 21-03 was moved and supported. It was moved and supported to amend the motion by striking Resolved B. The proposed amendment carried. The amended motion carried. Resolution 21-04 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution 21-05 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution 21-06 was moved and supported. The motion

carried. Resolution 21-07 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution 21-08 was moved and supported. The committee was thanked.

At 5:07 p.m., Rev. Daniel Sims led a closing prayer, and the afternoon session was adjourned.

In the evening, delegates were invited to attend mission presentations in the assembly hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Robert W. Pasbrig, recording secretary