

## **Minutes**

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

### **Tues., July 28, 2015**

President Mark Schroeder called the convention to order and welcomed the delegates in the name of the triune God at 8:00 a.m. He introduced Mrs. Karen Fischer, president of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society, who took the podium and narrated the presentation of the flags from every country in which WELS conducts mission work. The ladies were thanked for their presentation.

Rev. Thomas Westra, pastor at Beautiful Savior, Cincinnati, Ohio, led the morning devotion based on Romans 6:1-11, "One in Christ." Prof. Leonard Proeber served as the organist.

President Schroeder introduced Rev. Joel Petermann, president of Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich. Petermann welcomed the delegates and provided information about the campus. He was thanked for his presentation.

Dr. Robert Klindworth, chairman of Floor Committee #24, Elections, was introduced. The nominating ballot for the office of president of the synod was conducted. After ballots were collected, Klindworth declared the election closed.

Rev. Joel Voss, second vice-president of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, was introduced. Voss presented information about the convention including the privileges and the responsibilities of the delegates. He was thanked for his presentation.

President Schroeder read a letter of greeting from Rev. Martin Wilde, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Germany (ELFK). He also introduced special guests in attendance, including Rev. John Moldstad, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod; Dr. Al Culver, director of church relations and assistant to the president of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod; Rev. Michael Wilke, representing the Church of the Lutheran Confession; and Rev. Vyachslav Horpynchuk, bishop of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church. Also introduced was possibly the oldest man to ever serve as a delegate at a synod convention, Mr. William Hayes of Livonia, Mich., 90 years of age.

Mr. Lee Hitter, director of WELS communications, demonstrated the updated synod website and the live streaming available from the convention. He described the video news updates that are being prepared three times each day. Videos of the 28 displays at the convention are also being made. Written articles will highlight each day's presentations and decisions. Articles will be posted on [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net) and sent out in a daily issue of "Together," WELS' e-newsletter.

Mr. Todd Poppe, WELS chief financial officer, was introduced. He presented the synod's budget for the next two years utilizing a handout, "Ministry Financial Plan, 2015-2017." Questions were entertained. He was thanked for his presentation.

President Schroeder declared a 20-minute break at 9:40 a.m.

At 10 a.m., Rev. James Huebner, WELS first vice president and pastor at Grace, Milwaukee, Wis., took the chair and introduced Rev. John Brenner, chairman of the Commission on Inter-Church Relations. Brenner presented a brief history of the commission and presented the five objectives that guide the work of the commission. He was thanked for his presentation. Questions were entertained.

President Schroeder resumed the chair. Dr. Klindworth reported for the Elections Committee. Eight candidates were on the ballot for the office of president: Pastors Douglas L. Free, James R. Huebner, Paul M. Janke, David P. Kolander, Mark G. Schroeder, Earle D. Treptow, Charles A. Westra, and Mark G. Zaring. After all ballots were collected, the election was declared closed.

President Schroeder presented his report. A printed copy of the report was distributed after the report was presented.

Rev. Kurt Lueneburg, director of the Ministry of Christian Giving, was introduced. He presented a digital and printed report for the Ministry of Christian Giving. His report also included a video, the November 2015 *WELS Connection*, "One in Christ." He was thanked for his report.

Dr. Klindworth reported for the Elections Committee. President Mark Schroeder has been re-elected. The nominating ballot for the office of second vice president was conducted after the position's responsibilities were read. After the ballots were collected, the election was declared closed.

At 11:20 a.m., following a number of announcements, all joined in praying the meal prayers. The morning session was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

President Schroeder called the afternoon session to order at 1:30 p.m. Dr. Klindworth shared the results of the nominating ballot for the position of second vice president. Nominated were Pastors Paul M. Janke, David P. Kolander, Earle D. Treptow, Charles A. Westra, and Joel R. Voss. After the ballots were collected, the election was declared closed.

President Schroeder announced the acceptance of the call to serve as WELS president for a third four-year term. He included thanks to his wife, Andrea.

Rev. James Huebner presented the essay, "One in Christ." Printed copies of the essay were distributed.

Dr. Klindworth reported the re-election of Rev. Joel Voss as the second vice president of WELS. He continued by speaking of the elections scheduled for tomorrow and the possibility of adding names to those nominated by the Nominating Committee.

There were several announcements. Pastor Westra led the group in prayer. The afternoon session adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

An open session discussing the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission 2 was held at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Robert W. Pasbrig, recording secretary