



Our Great
HERITAGE
SYNOD CONVENTION 2017

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Minutes

July 31–Aug. 3, 2017

Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.

Thurs., Aug. 3, 2017

President Mark Schroeder greeted the delegates at 8:00 a.m. and introduced Rev. Jeffrey Samelson who led the morning devotion based on 2 Timothy 3:12–4:5, “One with authority.” The hymn, “O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word” was sung. Organist was Rev. Bryan Gerlach. Samelson was thanked for his devotion.

President Schroeder extended thanks to all of Luther Preparatory School and in particular Rev. Roger Kobleske, who is retiring after many years of service. Also thanked was Rev. Paul Naumann who is ending his 12 years as chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Matters and also serving as parliamentarian at synod conventions. There was a round of applause.

It was moved and supported that the body dispense with the reading of the reports. The motion was defeated.

Rev. Michael Woldt, chairman of Floor Committee #8: Compensation Review, presented the committee’s work. Resolution 08-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Report 08-01 was read. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Teacher Jamie Luehring, chairman of Floor Committee #14: Congregation and Ministry Support Group #3—Lutheran Schools, returned to the podium. Resolution 14-03 was moved and supported. The motion carried. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Rev. Nathan Seiltz, chairman of Floor Committee #2: Conference of Presidents, presented the committee's work. Resolution 02-01 was withdrawn. Resolution 02-02 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution 02-03 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution 02-04 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution 02-05 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Reports 02-01 and 02-02 were read. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Rev. Joel Heckendorf, chairman of Floor Committee #3: Special Committees, presented the committee's work. Resolution 03-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Reports 03-01 and 03-02 were read. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Rev. Michael Quandt, chairman of Floor Committee #5: Ministry of Christian Giving and Communication Services, presented the committee's work. Resolution 05-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Report 05-01 was read. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Rev. Mark Voss, chairman of Floor Committee #20: Constitutional Matters, presented the committee's work. Resolution 20-01 was moved and supported. There was discussion. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority vote. Resolution 20-02 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority vote. Resolution 20-03 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority vote. Resolution 20-04 was moved and supported. There was discussion. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority vote. Resolution 20-05 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority vote. Resolution 20-06 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority vote. Resolution 20-07 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority vote. Resolution 20-08 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority vote. Resolution 20-09 was moved and supported. There was discussion. The motion was defeated. Resolution 20-10 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority vote. Resolution 20-11 was moved and supported. There was discussion. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority vote. Resolution 20-12 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority vote. Resolution 20-13 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority vote. Resolution 20-14 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority vote. Resolution 20-15 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority vote. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Teacher Ben Troge, chairman of Floor Committee #16: Archives and WELS Historical Institute, presented the committee's work. Report 16-01 was read. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Rev. Paul Meier, chairman of Floor Committee #6: Synodical Council, presented the committee's work. Resolution 06-01 was moved and supported. There was discussion. It was moved and supported to amend the motion to split the \$180,000 that was in #5 in the "Unfunded Priority List" (BORAM, p. 79) inserting \$90,000 of the MLC Financial Assistance before #2 of that list and retaining \$90,000 in what will now be #6, MLC Financial Assistance. The amendment carried. The amended motion carried. Reports 06-01 and 06-02 were read. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

A break in the morning session was declared at 9:48 a.m. The morning session resumed at 10:13 a.m.

Rev. David Voss, chairman of Floor Committee #7: Finance and Ministry Financial Plan, presented the committee's work. Resolution 07-01 was moved and supported. There was discussion. The motion carried. Report 07-01 was read. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Rev. Joel Sauer, chairman of Floor Committee #9: Home Missions, presented the committee's work. Report 09-01 was read. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

District President Donald Patterson was recognized and promoted the supplies offered at Northwestern Publishing House.

Mr. Randy Sachtjen, chairman of Floor Committee #17: Subsidiaries, presented the committee's work. Report 17-01 was read. There were questions with answers provided. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Rev. Joel Pankow, chairman of Floor Committee #10: World Missions and Joint Mission Council, presented the committee's report. Report 10-01 was read. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Rev. Philip Henselin, chairman of Floor Committee #11: Ministerial Education, presented the committee's report. Reports 11-01, 11-02, 11-03, 11-04, 11-05, and 11-06 were read. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Prof. Paul Tess, chairman of Floor Committee #12: Congregation and Ministry Support Group #1—Worship, Evangelism, Congregational Counseling, presented the committee's work. Report 12-01 was read. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Teacher Gregory Thiesfeldt, chairman of Floor Committee #13: Congregation and Ministry Support Group #2—Special Ministries, Adult Discipleship, Youth and Family Ministry, presented the committee's work. Report 13-01 was read. There was discussion promoting parent instruction of children. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Rev. Donald Pieper, chairman of Floor Committee #15: Support Services, presented the committee's work. Report 15-01 was read. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Rev. James Borgwardt, chairman of Floor Committee #18: Northwestern Publishing House and Publication Coordinating Commission, presented the committee's work. Resolution 18-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Reports 18-01 and 18-02 were read. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Dr. Michael Brooks, chairman of Floor Committee #19: WELS Christian Aid and Relief, presented the committee's work. Resolution 19-01 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Resolution 19-02 was moved and supported. The motion carried. Report 19-01 was read. It was moved and supported to thank the committee. The motion carried.

Rev. Mark Voss, chairman of Floor Committee #20: Constitutional Matters, returned to the podium. Resolution 20-16 was moved and supported. It was moved and supported to call the question. The motion to call the question carried. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority vote. The committee was thanked again.

President Mark Schroeder presented his closing remarks, describing what the synod is. It is 370,000 people united in a common faith and united in a common goal—to share the Savior with the world. We are beginning the second 500 years of the Reformation. It is our prayer that God will enable our synod to continue the three Reformation principles. The delegates were thanked for their time, efforts, zeal, and dedication. "What happens in Watertown CANNOT stay in Watertown." Share what has happened here wherever possible.

It was moved and supported to adjourn at 11:35 a.m. The motion carried. There was a final round of applause.

The convention's closing vespers service was held in the Luther Preparatory School chapel. The presiding minister was Rev. Timothy Dolan, LPS dean of students, and the preacher was Rev. John Steinbrenner, president of the Pacific Northwest District. Installed in the service were first vice president Rev. James Huebner and recording secretary Rev. Robert Pasbrig. The closing service organist was Prof. Randy Bode.

Following the service, the delegates were given copies of "Together: Synod Convention edition."

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Robert W. Pasbrig, recording secretary