

**MINUTES**  
**65TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE**  
**WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD**  
**MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE, NEW ULM, MINNESOTA**  
**JULY 29—AUG. 1, 2019**

**Minutes, Tuesday, July 30, 2019**

President Schroeder wished a good morning to the assembled delegates at 8:01 a.m. Ms. Emily Kom, former president of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society, was introduced. Ms. Kom narrated (the presentation was pre-recorded) the presentation of the flags of all countries in which the WELS carries out mission work or countries in which reside a church body in fellowship with the WELS or countries in which the WELS has mission partners. The ladies were thanked for their presentation with a round of applause.

President Schroeder called the 65th Biennial Convention of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to order at 8:18 a.m. The opening devotion, hymn, and prayer were led by Pastor Andrew Schwartz, who serves at Christ the King, Bremerton, Wash. The devotion was based on Acts 8:1b-8, and the hymn was "Lord, You Call Us as Your People." Schwartz was thanked for the devotion.

President Schroeder introduced Rev. Mark Zarling, president of Martin Luther College. Zarling spoke of the love of Christ that brought the delegates to this convention. He spoke of that love as being the reason for the existence of Martin Luther College. For the faculty and staff of the college, he welcomed all to the campus. He asked that we pray for the college when we return home.

At 8:43 a.m., Prof. Gregory Diersen, chairman of the Elections Committee, announced the nominating ballot for the position of synod president. He read a summary of the duties of the synod president. The nominating ballot was cast, and after all ballots were collected, the nominating ballot was declared closed.

President Schroeder read letters of greeting from the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC) and from the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Germany. He also introduced special guests and convention observers:

President John Moldstad of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Rev. Larry Vogel from the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Rev. Nathanael Mayhew and Rev. Douglas Liddy, both from the Church of the Lutheran Confession

Rev. Mark Anariko Onunda from the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ—Kenya (host Prof. E. Allen Sorum)

Rev. Peter Chen and Mr. Michael Lin from the Christian Lutheran Evangelical Church in Taiwan (host Pastor Robert Siirila)

All were welcomed with rounds of applause.

President Schroeder introduced Pastor Larry Schlomer, administrator of the Board for World Missions, and Pastor Kurt Lueneburg, director of the Ministry of Christian Giving. The men reported on the amazing mission opportunity in Vietnam and the funding already received for the effort.

At 9:10 a.m., President Schroeder introduced Mr. Todd Poppe, WELS' chief financial officer, who reviewed the synod's financial results from the last few years and then presented the ministry financial plan (the budget) for 2019-21. He was given a round of applause.

Prof. Gregory Diersen, Elections Committee chairman, led a prayer asking for God's blessing on the upcoming election. He reported the results of the nominating ballot for the position of synod president. The top five nominees were: Pastors James Huebner, David Kolander, Mark Schroeder, Charles Westra, and Mark Zarling. Votes were cast, and after all ballots were collected, the election was declared closed.

Pastor Paul Prange, administrator of the Board for Ministerial Education, was welcomed to the podium. He presented his report using PowerPoint. He was given a round of applause.

At 9:53 a.m., a break was declared. The morning session was called back to order at 10:20 a.m. Pastor Larry Schlomer returned to the podium and provided additional information about world missions, again using PowerPoint. Participation in the Mission Journeys program was encouraged. Also guest preachers are available to share world mission information with the local congregation. He was given a round of applause.

Prof. Diersen reported the results of the ballot for synod president. Pastor Mark Schroeder has been re-elected. **It was moved and supported to make the vote (the call) for Mark Schroeder as synod president unanimous. The motion carried.** The duties of the second vice president of the synod were read. The nominating ballot was cast, and after all votes were collected, the election was declared closed.

At 10:57 a.m., President Schroeder thanked the delegates for their confidence in him as he was re-elected. He thanked God and asked for the prayers of the delegates. He announced his acceptance of the four-year call. There was a round of applause.

President Schroeder presented his President's Report. Copies were distributed following the presentation of the report. There was a round of applause.

Prof. Gregory Diersen, Elections Committee chairman, offered a prayer for God's blessings on the election of the second vice president. He reported the results of the nominating ballot for second vice president. Nominated were Pastors David Kolander, Joel Voss and Charles Westra. Votes were cast and after the ballots were collected, the election was declared closed.

At 11:29 a.m., Pastor John Moldstad, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) for the past 17 years, brought greetings from the ELS. His greetings included news from the recent ELS convention, studies and conferences dealing with apologetics, the CELC convention next year (which may include new declarations of fellowship), ELS work in Kenya, a new home missionary in Texas, several prayer requests, ongoing discussions with the Church of the Lutheran Confession and the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, and the prayer that God be with the WELS convention. There was a round of applause, and President Moldstad was thanked for his presentation.

District President Don Patterson was introduced. He encouraged visits to the Northwestern Publishing House display

At 11:50 a.m., the group joined in the table prayers, and the morning session adjourned for the noon meal.

At 1:16 p.m., the afternoon session was called to order. Chairman Dierson announced the results of the election for second vice president. Pastor Joel Voss received the

majority of votes. **It was moved and supported to make the call to this position unanimous. The motion carried.** The ballot for 19 board and other positions was conducted. After the ballots were collected, the election was declared closed.

Pastor Joel Voss announced his acceptance of his four-year call as the WELS second vice president. He asked for prayers as he carries out his duties.

President Schroeder introduced Pastor Jonathan Hein, who presented his essay, "For the Generations to Come." There was a round of applause.

At 3:18 p.m., a five minute "standing" break was declared. After the break, the floor was opened for discussion and questions regarding the presentation. **After the discussion, it was moved and supported to thank the essayist. The motion carried.**

The chairman of the Elections Committee conducted a run-off election for several positions. After votes were cast and the ballots collected, the election was declared closed.

At 3:46 p.m., President Schroeder welcomed to the podium Dr. Dan Johnson, president of Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, Wis. He presented a PowerPoint illustrating the college's history and ministry to the many WELS young people who are not preparing to be called workers. Jesus is the core of the college with daily chapel and required theology courses taught by WELS-trained pastors. Bible-based college courses are critical as nonbiblical morals are being so actively promoted in our culture.

Delegates were asked to pray, to share, and to refer students to support WLC. There was a round of applause following the presentation.

At 4:04 p.m., the afternoon session adjourned with a prayer led by Pastor Andrew Schwartz.

Floor committee meetings were held for the remainder of the afternoon.

After the evening meal, at 7 p.m., Pastor Keith Free, administrator of the Board for Home Missions, introduced Pastor Jared Oldenburg, who described home mission work in Castle Rock, Colo. Pastor Larry Schlomer, administrator of the Board for World

Missions, introduced Pastor Joel Sutton, who described mission work in Latin America. *Academia Christo* was also explained. Pastor Free introduced Pastor Kevin Schultz, who is serving a new home mission in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Schultz shared more about the work being done there. Pastor Schlomer introduced Pastor Glen Thompson who spoke about Asia Lutheran Seminary in Hong Kong. Pastor Schlomer introduced Pastor Michael Duncan, who shared the mission work in South Asia. There were rounds of applause after each missionary's presentations. Pastor Schlomer closed the evenings presentations with prayer.

Additional floor committee meeting time followed. Fellowship and refreshments closed the evening.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Robert Pasbrig  
Recording secretary