

CONVENTION MINUTES JUNE 21 – MORNING SESSION

President Hardy called the Convention to order at 8:00am. Rev. Ryan Beffrey conducted the opening devotions. The delegation of youth representatives conducted a live-action presentation of Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan from Luke 10.

President Hardy invited Shirley Holle, past English District LWML President, to the dais. She greeted the delegates on behalf of the newly elected president Darlene Keca. She reported about the 38th biennial convention held April 2018 in Grand Rapids, MI; \$18,000 was committed to mission projects within the District during the 2018-2020 biennium. She reminded delegates that the work of LWML starts at the local level with involvement of societies within congregations and the zones to which they belong. She read the LWML Pledge to the delegates, tying it to the Convention Theme: "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself."

President Hardy directed the delegates' attention to the copies of the minutes from the second, third, and fourth sessions of the Convention. Motion: ***"To approve the minutes as presented."*** Motion carried.

At 8:20am, Secretary Zimmerman provided the fourth credentials report of the Convention. As of 8:00am on June 21, 2018, the credentials report was as follows:

Voting Pastoral Delegates	96
<u>Voting Lay Delegates</u>	<u>92</u>
<i>Total Voting Delegates</i>	<i>188</i>
 <i>Total Advisory Delegates</i>	 22
 Youth Representatives	 12
Board Members	1
District Support Staff	8
<u>Visitors/Guests</u>	<u>53</u>
 <i>Total in Attendance</i>	 <i>284</i>

At 8:25am, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 4 to the dais.

Floor Committee 4 moved adoption of Resolution 4-01A (*Page 6-44*) with the correction in Line 39 changing "Committee" to "Commission." With no debate, Resolution 4-01A was adopted [*Y-154; N-7*].

Floor Committee 4 moved adoption of Resolution 4-03A (*Page 6-45*). With no debate, Resolution 4-03A was adopted [*Y-127; N-30*].

Floor Committee 4 moved adoption of Resolution 4-02 (*Page 4-99*). Following debate, Resolution 4-02 was adopted [*Y-147; N-14*].

Floor Committee 4 moved adoption of Resolution 4-07 (*Page 6-2*), which was renumbered by the Committee as Resolution 4-04. With no debate, Resolution 4-04 was adopted [*Y-155; N-10*].

Following Floor Committee 4's presentation of resolutions, Rev. Derek Mathers was invited to the dais to speak about the District Ministerial Health Commission. He mentioned the Commission's motto: "Standing with church workers and their families." The Commission and its members were recognized before the delegates.

President Hardy invited Rev. David Petersen, Pastor of Redeemer – Fort Wayne, IN, to the dais. Rev. Petersen offered the Convention Essay on the Convention theme "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself." He introduced his essay by touching on the issue of antinomianism and the proper use of the Law within Lutheran teaching and preaching, noting that the distinction between Law and Gospel is being corrupted in the current Lutheran setting in North America. This is seen in how the Law is used in ethical teaching, particularly whether the Second Table of the Decalogue is used to instruct parishioners. Doctrine and ethics belong in sermons; hearers are to learn of both the saving Christian faith and the virtuous Christian life in sermons.

At 9:30am, President Hardy called members of the District Missions Council to the dais. Rev. Justin Laughridge, chairman of the council, introduced the members of the council. He stated the main purposes of the council: (a) support of mission endeavors, (b) encouragement of those currently involved in mission endeavors, and (c) equipping people for future missions. He outlined locations of current national mission endeavors being sponsored by the District, as well as the District's international mission partners in Hong Kong and the Dominican Republic. He thanked the delegates for their partnership in supporting the District's mission endeavors.

At 9:55am, President Hardy invited Gregg Kremkow of Lutheran Hour Ministries to the dais. He spoke of the opportunity that currently exists in the world for the organization's crucial evangelism ministry to take place. He mentioned the various aspects of the organization's work to equip individuals and congregations for evangelism, as well as the resources that are provided to teach the faith.

Following this presentation, delegates enjoyed a coffee break. President Hardy called the Convention back to order at 10:30am.

At 10:30am, President Hardy then summoned Rev. Tauscher and Secretary Zimmerman to conduct the election of Circuit Visitors. Secretary Zimmerman informed delegates of how the candidates for Circuit Visitor were selected. He informed delegates of changes to the initial slate presented in the Convention Workbook caused by pastors leaving the District. He then presented the amended slate of Circuit Visitor selectees for ratification by the Convention:

Circuit 1	(New York/New Jersey)	Rev. Dr. Martin Erhardt
Circuit 2	(Philadelphia)	Rev. Adam Koontz
Circuit 3	(Florida)	Rev. William Douthwaite

Circuit 4 (Georgia)	Rev. David Miller
Circuit 5 (Buffalo)	Rev. Dwayne Hendricks
Circuit 6 (Pittsburgh)	Rev. Brian Westgate
Circuit 7 (Canada-East)	Rev. Dusan Toth
Circuit 8 (Canada-West)	Rev. Dr. Jason Kouri
Circuit 9 (Cleveland-Akron)	Rev. James Gau
Circuit 10 (Cleveland)	Rev. Joshua Moldenhauer
Circuit 11 (Detroit-South)	Rev. Bradford Scott
Circuit 12 (Detroit-North)	Rev. Daniel Grams
Circuit 13 (Western Michigan)	Rev. Eric Forss
Circuit 14 (Indiana)	Rev. Chad Trouten
Circuit 15 (Chicago-North)	Rev. Anthony Oliphant
Circuit 16 (Chicago-South)	Rev. James Huenink
Circuit 17 (Milwaukee)	Rev. Fred Reaman
Circuit 18 (St. Louis)	Rev. Theodore Laesch
Circuit 19 (Arizona-North)	Rev. Nicholas Wirtz
Circuit 20 (Arizona-South)	Rev. Dr. Vernon Schindler
Circuit 21 (Nevada/Utah)	Rev. Travis Lauterbach
Circuit 22 (San Diego)	Rev. Steven Duescher
Circuit 23 (Los Angeles)	Rev. Matthew Payne
Circuit 24 (San Francisco)	Rev. John Berg

Prior to the ratification vote, Rev. James Elsner, convention chaplain offered prayer.

The convention proceeded with the vote to ratify the election of Circuit Visitors. The results were posted:

Yes	161
No	2

The slate of candidates for Circuit Visitors was ratified.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the District Committee on Nominations:

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky
 Rev. Brian Westgate

The convention proceeded with balloting for District Committee on Nominations (Eastern Region – Ordained). The results were posted:

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky	87
Rev. Brian Westgate	82

Rev. Robert Kieselowsky was elected.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate for District Committee on Nominations (Lake Erie Region – Ordained):

Rev. Mark Braden

The convention continued with balloting for District Committee on Nominations (Lake Erie Region – Ordained). The results were posted:

Rev. Mark Braden 147

Rev. Mark Braden was elected.

Rev. Tauscher informed the convention that no nominees consented to stand for election for the District Committee on Nominations (Midwestern Region – Ordained).

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate for District Committee on Nominations (Western Region – Ordained):

Rev. Victor Manuel de la Rosa

The convention continued with balloting for District Committee on Nominations (Western Region – Ordained). The results were posted:

Rev. Victor Manuel de la Rosa 147

Rev. Victor de la Rosa was elected.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate for District Committee on Nominations (Eastern Region – Commissioned/Lay):

Connor Hagey

The convention continued with balloting for District Committee on Nominations (Eastern Region – Commissioned/Lay). The results were posted:

Connor Hagey 153

Connor Hagey was elected.

Rev. Tauscher informed the delegates that no nominee consented to stand for election for the District Committee on Nominations (Lake Erie Region – Commissioned/Lay).

Rev. Tauscher informed the delegates that no nominee consented to stand for election for the District Committee on Nominations (Midwestern Region – Commissioned/Lay).

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of nominees for the District Committee on Nominations (Western Region – Commissioned/Lay):

Thomas Honebrink

James Rawlings

The convention continued with balloting for District Committee on Nominations (Western Region – Non-Ordained). The results were posted:

Thomas Honebrink	61
James Rawlings	70

James Rawlings was elected.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the District Endowment Fund Board of Managers (Eastern Region):

Michael Coffey
Connor Hagey

The convention then proceeded with balloting for District Endowment Fund Manager (Eastern Region). The results were posted:

Michael Coffey	115
Connor Hagey	36

Michael Coffey was elected to a first term as District Endowment Fund Manager.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the District Endowment Fund Manager (Lake Erie Region):

Rev. Ray Kirk

By acclamation of the delegates, Rev. Ray Kirk was declared to be elected to a second term as District Endowment Fund Manager.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the District Endowment Fund Manager (Midwestern Region):

Gregory Collins
Rex Toepke
Alan Zacharias

The convention then proceeded with balloting for District Endowment Fund Manager (Midwestern Region). The first ballot was cast and the results were posted:

Gregory Collins	48
Rex Toepke	61
Alan Zacharias	35

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Alan Zacharias' name was removed. A second ballot was held and the results were posted:

Gregory Collins	48
Rex Toepke	92

Rex Toepke was elected to a first term as District Endowment Fund Manager.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of nominees for District Endowment Fund Manager (Western Region):

Rev. Fred Gerlach
Thomas Schlitt
Paul Sticha
Rev. Nicholas Wirtz

The convention then proceeded with balloting for District Endowment Fund Manager (Western Region). The first ballot was cast and the results were posted:

Rev. Fred Gerlach	63
Thomas Schlitt	24
Paul Sticha	17
Rev. Nicholas Wirtz	52

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Paul Sticha's name was removed. A second ballot was held and the results were posted:

Rev. Fred Gerlach	80
Thomas Schlitt	23
Rev. Nicholas Wirtz	58

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Thomas Schlitt's name was removed. A third and final ballot was held and the results were posted:

Rev. Fred Gerlach	93
Rev. Nicholas Wirtz	68

Rev. Fred Gerlach was elected to a second term as District Endowment Fund Manager.

Rev. Tauscher presented the slate of candidates for the Synod Committee on Convention Nominations:

Rick Crain
Roni Grad
Connor Hagey
Thomas Honebrink

The convention then proceeded with balloting for Synod Committee on Convention Nominations. The first ballot was held. The results were posted:

Rick Crain	65
Roni Grad	52
Connor Hagey	20
Thomas Honebrink	16

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, the names of Connor Hagey and Thomas Honebrink were removed. A second ballot was held. The results were posted:

Rick Crain	84
Roni Grad	72

Rick Crain was elected to the Synod Committee on Convention Nominations.

The convention then proceeded with balloting for Synod Committee on Convention Nominations (Alternate). Rev. Tauscher informed delegates that the candidates not elected in the previous balloting would form the slate of candidates for this office. The first and only ballot was held. The results were posted:

Roni Grad	124
Connor Hagey	23
Thomas Honebrink	11

Roni Grad was elected to the Synod Committee on Convention Nominations (Alternate).

President Hardy thanked Rev. Tauscher for conducting the election of the District Committee on Nominations, District Endowment Fund Board of Managers, and Synod Committee on Convention Nominations.

President Hardy led the Convention in recognizing the District Church Worker Jubilarians.

At 11:05am, President Hardy called the Endowment Fund Board of Managers to the dais. Treasurer Naglich presented news about the Endowment Fund's investments and awards during the 2015—2018 triennium. Notice was given to the delegates that some revisions to the grant awarding process will be considered during the upcoming triennium.

At 11:13am, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 1 to the dais. Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-05 (*Pages 4-72, 4-73*). Following debate, Resolution 1-05 was adopted [*Y-128; N-28*].

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-03A (*Page 6-24*). Without debate, Resolution 1-03A was adopted [*Y-136; N-20*].

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-04A (*Page 6-25*). Without debate, Resolution 1-04A was adopted [*Y-127; N-30*].

Floor Committee 1 introduced Resolution 1-08 (*Pages 4-75, 4-76*) to the convention for action. The Floor Committee informed the delegates that adoption of the resolution would have no effect on the seminaries' curricula and advised the delegates not to adopt the resolution. With no delegate moving adoption, Resolution 1-08 died.

At 11:30am, President Hardy invited Mr. Jim Sanft, Chief Executive Officer of Concordia Plans Services, to the dais. Mr. Sanft informed delegates about Concordia Plans Services and the benefits that it provides to professional church workers.

At 11:40am, President Hardy invited David Young, Sr., delegate from Chatham Fields – Chicago, IL, to the dais. He shared with the delegates a song that he had written during the convention. He also described the various evangelization efforts with community children that his congregation has begun involving music.

At 11:45am, President Hardy invited Rev. David Thiele, LCEF Vice-President, to the dais. Rev. Thiele spoke about the work of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund within the Synod and District. 1,981 investors or six percent of the District communicant membership hold funds in LCEF. An increase in the percentage of investors will lead to the English District receiving more distribution of benefits. He encouraged each congregation to have an LCEF Advocate and to consider LCEF to be their source for congregational loans. He also informed delegates that between LCEF and LFCU, mortgage loans can now be issued to rostered church workers in all fifty states.

President Hardy called upon Rev. James Elsner, convention chaplain, to lead the convention in prayer. Several petitions for various individuals were offered.

President Hardy declared the Convention to be in recess until 1:45pm.

CONVENTION MINUTES JUNE 21 – AFTERNOON SESSION

President Hardy called the Convention to order at 1:45pm.

At 1:45pm, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 3 to the dais.

Floor Committee 3 moved adoption of Resolution 3-03A (*Pages 6-28 through 41*). Motion: ***“To amend Resolution 3-03A by replacing in Page, Lines ‘one (1) commissioned minister from the Eastern or Lake Erie Region, one (1) commissioned minister from the Midwestern or Western Region’ with ‘two (2) commissioned ministers’”*** This amendment was received by the Committee. Motion: ***“To amend Resolution 3-03A by replacing in Page, Lines ‘There shall be no opportunity provided for additional nominations.’ with ‘If only one name is presented to the convention, there shall be opportunity provided for additional nominations from the floor.’”*** The amendment failed. Following debate, Resolution 3-03A was adopted [Y-127; N-6].

Floor Committee 3 moved adoption of Resolution 3-04A. Without debate, Resolution 3-04A was adopted [Y-134; N-2].

At 2:06pm, President Hardy inquired of the delegates whether any unfinished business remained to be completed. Motion: ***“To close the convention.”*** Motion carried. President Hardy closed the Convention at 2:08pm.

Delegates and guests assembled in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity to attend the Convention Closing Vespers Service, which began at 2:30pm. Rev. R. Wayne Morton preached. Synod Vice-President John Wohlrabe installed President Hardy into his second term as District President. President Hardy installed the newly elected officeholders. President Hardy conducted the Rite of Closing a Convention.

Submitted,

Rev. Luke T. Zimmerman
Secretary, English District – LCMS