

CONVENTION MINUTES JUNE 20 – MORNING SESSION

President Hardy called the Convention back in session at 8:00-am. Rev. Brian Westgate led opening devotions with Vice-President Ben Eder providing a homily on 1 Timothy 1:12-17.

At 8:15am, Synod President Harrison presented his report of the Synod to the delegates. A published report “Joy:fully Lutheran” was distributed to each delegate. The initial part of the report spoke to how Luther spoke of the Gospel as stated in the Scriptures as a “joyful exchange” and joy creating. Further descriptions of joy connected with the Christian faith and the various facets of Christian life were provided. The second part of the report issued two positive challenges to delegates: (a) study the Scriptures and (b) read the Book of Concord. The third part of the report provided demographic data of the Synod. The fourth part of the report offered potential answers to the membership difficulties facing the Synod. Delegates had opportunity to ask questions of Synod President Harrison.

President Hardy directed the delegates’ attention to the copies of the minutes from the June 19 session of the Convention. Motion: **“To approve the minutes as presented.”** Motion carried.

Delegates enjoyed a coffee break in the Ministry Tent beginning at 10:03am.

President Hardy called the convention to order at 10:25am. He directed the delegates’ attention to the proposed standing rules found on Page 1-4 of the Convention Workbook. Motion: **“To adopt the proposed standing rules.”** Motion carried.

President Hardy announced that the offering collected at from the Convention Worship Service on June 19 totaled \$4,000. He invited Rev. Adam Koontz, pastor at Mount Calvary – Lititz, PA and missionary pastor at Concordia Lutheran Mission – Myerstown, PA to the dais. Rev. Koontz spoke briefly about the mission being planted in Lebanon County, PA and thanked the delegates for their financial support of the mission.

President Hardy introduced members of the District Staff to the delegates, thanking them for their service to the District and the District congregations. Staff recognized were Kathy Stanis, Sally Naglich, Peggy Oke, Ron Grimm, Lynne Cobb, Evelyn Jentzen, Rev. David Thiele, Rev. J. Derek Mathers, and Gail Holzer.

At 10:35am, President Hardy summoned Mrs. Sally Naglich, Treasurer of the English District, to the dais. Treasurer Naglich presented reports on the financial status of the District from the 2015—2018 triennium. She explained how the financial records of the District are kept and were presented in the Convention Workbook. She also informed the delegates of the positive audit review that the District received from the Synod Audit Department. She presented a summary statement of the Financial Position of the District, comparing the financial positions for the three Fiscal Years that ended January 2016, January 2017, and January 2018. Note was made of the

overall decline in congregational support given during the 2008—2018 decade. A chart detailing the number of congregations giving money to the District comparing the years 2011, 2016, 2017, and 2018. Congregations and ministries that received grants during the past triennium were also identified.

At 10:55am, President Hardy invited Rev. Bart Day, Chief Executive Officer of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), to the dais. Rev. Day spoke to the delegates about the activity of LCEF within the Synod. He informed delegates that the English District joined LCEF in 1982. He reported that \$36 million dollars are currently invested by congregations of the English District and their members and that 63 loans are currently active within the District. He described various services that LCEF can provide to congregations and rostered church workers.

At 11:05am, President Hardy invited Rev. Marcus Zill, Synod Director of Campus Ministry, to the dais. Rev. Zill noted that the English District is currently the most active District of the Synod with campus ministries. He encouraged District congregations to be diligent in caring for their members who attend college. He identified three future frontiers for work among individuals 18-25 years old: (a) community colleges, (b) urban centers with multiple campuses located in them, and (c) young people who choose not to attend college. A program meant to prepare students before they attend college is also being developed.

At 11:13am, Secretary Zimmerman provided the second credentials report of the Convention. The credentials report as of 10:00am on June 20, 2018 was as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Voting Pastoral Delegates | 101 |
| <u>Voting Lay Delegates</u> | <u>96</u> |
| Total Voting Delegates | 197 |
| <i>Total Advisory Delegates</i> | 23 |
| Youth Representatives | 12 |
| Board Members | 1 |
| District Support Staff | 8 |
| <u>Visitors/Guests</u> | <u>57</u> |
| Total in Attendance | 298 |

At 11:15am, President Hardy summoned Rev. Tauscher to announce the slate of candidates for District Secretary and the District Board of Directors. Secretary Zimmerman informed delegates of how the candidates for these offices were nominated.

President Hardy then asked if there were any floor nominations for District Secretary or District Board of Directors. None were offered. The slate of candidates was closed.

President Hardy asked Rev. Jeff Teeple, convention chaplain, to offer prayers prior to conducting the elections for District Secretary and Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for District Secretary:

Rev. Luke Zimmerman

The convention proceeded with balloting for District Secretary. The ballot was held. The results were posted:

Rev. Luke Zimmerman **177**

Rev. Zimmerman was elected to a second term as District Secretary.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for the Ordained (Eastern/Lake Erie) seat on the Board of Directors:

Rev. Mark Braden

Rev. R. Wayne Morton

Rev. Michael Scheer

Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel

Rev. Robert Tauscher

Rev. Robert Weldon, Sr.

The convention proceeded with balloting for the Board of Directors (Ordained – Eastern/Lake Erie Regions). The first *[and only]* ballot was held. The results were posted:

Rev. Mark Braden 36

Rev. R. Wayne Morton 70

Rev. Michael Scheer 14

Rev. Dr. Douglas Spittel 25

Rev. Robert Tauscher 34

Rev. Robert Weldon, Sr. 3

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, the names of Revs. Scheer, Spittel, and Weldon were removed. A second ballot was held and the vote totals were posted:

Rev. Mark Braden 40

Rev. R. Wayne Morton **96**

Rev. Robert Tauscher 42

Rev. R. Wayne Morton was elected to a second term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors (Midwestern/Western Regions):

Rev. Thomas Engler

Rev. Theodore Laesch

Rev. Justin Laughridge

Rev. Michael Morehouse

The convention continued with balloting for the Board of Directors (Ordained – Midwestern/Western Regions). The first ballot was held. The results were posted:

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Rev. Thomas Engler | 66 |
| Rev. Theodore Laesch | 41 |
| Rev. Justin Laughridge | 34 |
| Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse | 41 |

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Rev. Laughridge’s name was removed. A second ballot was held. The results of the second ballot were posted:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Rev. Thomas Engler | 91 |
| Rev. Theodore Laesch | 42 |
| Rev. Dr. Michael Morehouse | 47 |

Rev. Thomas Engler was elected to a first term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher informed the delegates that no candidates for Board of Directors (Commissioned – Eastern/Lake Erie Regions) were presented for election. This creates a vacancy that will be filled by the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for Board of Directors (Commissioned – Midwestern/Western Regions):

Albert Amling
Rod Lane

The convention continued with balloting for the Board of Directors (Commissioned – Midwestern/Western Regions). The ballot was held. The results were posted:

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Albert Amling | 108 |
| Rod Lane | 68 |

Mr. Albert Amling was elected to a fourth term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for Board of Directors (Lay – Eastern Region):

Michael Coffey
Jane Duffy
Carol George
William Magill

The convention continued with balloting for the Board of Directors (Lay – Eastern Region). The first ballot was held. The results were posted:

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Michael Coffey | 37 |
| Jane Duffy | 57 |
| Carol George | 58 |
| William Magill | 20 |

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, William Magill's name was removed. A second ballot was held. The results were posted:

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Michael Coffey | 41 |
| Jane Duffy | 63 |
| Carol George | 70 |

With no candidate receiving a majority, Michael Coffey's name was removed. A third ballot was held. The results were posted:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Jane Duffy | 80 |
| Carol George | 94 |

Carol George was elected to a second term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for the Board of Directors (Lay – Lake Erie Region):

Terry Leu

The convention continued with balloting for the Board of Directors (Lay – Lake Erie Region). The results were posted:

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Terry Leu | 174 |
|------------------|------------|

Terry Leu was elected to a third term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for Board of Directors (Lay – Midwestern Region):

Chris Cassel
Charles Porter

The convention continued with balloting for the Board of Directors (Lay – Midwestern Region). The results were posted:

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Chris Cassel | 113 |
| Charles Porter | 61 |

Chris Cassel was elected to a second term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher announced the slate of candidates for Board of Directors (Lay – Western Region):

Shirley Holle
Kristin Wellik

The convention continued with balloting for the Board of Directors (Lay – Western Region). The results were posted:

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Shirley Holle | 104 |
| Kristin Wellik | 69 |

Shirley Holle was elected to a second term on the Board of Directors.

Rev. Tauscher reminded delegates that all candidates for Board of Directors (Lay) who were not elected to regional seats would form the slate of candidates for the two Lay (At-Large) seats on the Board of Directors.

The convention proceeded with balloting for the first Board of Directors (Lay – At-Large) seat. The first ballot was held. The results were posted:

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Michael Coffey | 30 |
| Jane Duffy | 75 |
| William Magill | 13 |
| Charles Porter | 27 |
| Kristin Wellik | 27 |

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, William Magill’s name was removed. A second ballot was held. The results were posted:

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Michael Coffey | 43 |
| Jane Duffy | 79 |
| Charles Porter | 29 |
| Kristin Wellik | 24 |

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Kristin Wellik’s name(s) was/were removed. A third ballot was held. The results were posted:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Michael Coffey | 50 |
| Jane Duffy | 88 |
| Charles Porter | 35 |

Jane Duffy was elected to a third term on the Board of Directors.

The convention continued with balloting for the second Board of Directors (Lay – At-Large) seat. The first ballot was held. The results were posted:

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Michael Coffey | 69 |
| William Magill | 12 |
| Charles Porter | 42 |
| Kristin Wellik | 55 |

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, William Magill’s name was removed. A second ballot was held. The results were posted:

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Michael Coffey | 69 |
| Charles Porter | 37 |
| Kristin Wellik | 67 |

With no candidate receiving a majority of votes cast, Charles Porter’s name was/were removed. A third ballot was held. The results were posted:

Michael Coffey

83

Kristin Wellik

89

Kristin Wellik was elected to a first term on the Board of Directors.

President Hardy thanked Rev. Tauscher for conducting the election of District Secretary and Board of Directors. He also thanked all candidates who stood for election.

President Hardy invited Rev. Rich Heinz from Concordia University Chicago to greet the delegates. Rev. Heinz spoke about the necessity to recruit church workers, a task that begins well before when high school students examine options for college. He informed delegates about the CUC Guarantee, a tuition grant program that is offered to LCMS students and graduates of Lutheran high schools. Another program to reduce costs of graduate level studies for LCMS church work students was highlighted.

President Hardy declared the Convention to be in recess until 1:30pm.

CONVENTION MINUTES JUNE 20 – AFTERNOON SESSION

President Hardy called the Convention to order at 1:30pm.

President Hardy invited Rev. David P. Maier, President of the Michigan District, to address the delegates. He spoke about the reach of Concordia University to individuals around the nation, as well as how the Michigan, Ohio, and English Districts partnered to help save the college. He also informed the delegates about the regional groupings of the District Presidents, of which both the Michigan District and English District are part.

President Hardy recognized the past presidents of the District: Roger Pittelko, David Ritt, and David Stechholz. David Stechholz, who was present, was invited to the dais.

President Hardy invited Rev. John Diener, Chairman of the District Evangelization Team, to speak about the efforts of the team. He reminded delegates that the greatest opportunity that each of us have is to share the gospel with those who have not yet heard it. That truth of the gospel is what defines individuals. Members of the Evangelization Team were listed. Goals of the team were presented to the delegates. Rev. Diener also informed the delegates of the witnessing modules being made available as part of the “Every One His Witness” curriculum.

Vice-President Ben Eder assumed the chair while President Hardy was absent to attend another matter.

Vice-President Eder invited Rev. Derek Mathers to the dais to introduce Rev. Tom Engler, Pastor of Prince of Peace – Menomonee Falls, WI, to speak about the 1.1.1 Initiative, a plan to fund missions within the District. Rev. Engler told delegates about his own passion for missions and how that led to the development of the initiative. The 1.1.1 Initiative is a way for congregations to deliberately raise dedicated money for mission. Congregations would participate by having worshipers contribute \$1 per week for a designated mission project identified by the District. The strength of the initiative is that every worshiper can participate and the weekly dollar gifts add up to large amounts. It also incorporates individuals into a larger movement, a motivator for many to contribute. Mr. Norm Schwantes, a member of Prince of Peace, also spoke to how the 1.1.1 Initiative has been received at that congregation. Rev. Derek Mathers informed delegates that two missions have been identified as recipients of 1.1.1 Initiative money: Dominican Republic Lutheran Mission and Concordia Lutheran Mission.

Following the 1.1.1 Initiative presentation, President Hardy reassumed the chair. He also presented the delegates with a way that the District can now receive mission money by texting.

President Hardy invited members of the District Campus Ministry Task Force. Rev. Curt Dwyer spoke of the work being done by the task force. Representatives from congregations involved with campus ministries were present on the dais. Rev. Dwyer noted that campus ministries

provide multiple mission fields; though many of them with North American students, others are with international students or with non-students connected with colleges and their communities. During the presentation, highlights of work being done by campus ministries around the District.

At 2:35pm, Secretary Zimmerman provided the third credentials report of the Convention. As of 2:00pm on June 20, 2018, the credentials report was as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Voting Pastoral Delegates | 100 |
| Voting Lay Delegates | 96 |
| Total Voting Delegates | 196 |
| | |
| <i>Total Advisory Delegates</i> | <i>23</i> |
| | |
| Youth Representatives | 12 |
| Board Members | 1 |
| District Support Staff | 8 |
| Visitors/Guests | 56 |
| Total in Attendance | 296 |

President Hardy invited representatives from the congregations added to the English District during the 2015—2018 triennium to the dais:

- Tree of Life – Inverness, FL
- Apostolic – Moses Lake, WA
- St Paul – Long Beach, CA
- First Trinity – Pittsburgh, PA
- Trinity – San Dimas, CA

Certificates were presented to the present representatives and photos were taken.

Following this presentation, delegates enjoyed a coffee break in the Ministry Tent.

President Hardy called the Convention back to order at 3:00pm. President Hardy summoned Rev. Jim Elsner, convention chaplain, to offer prayers. Petitions were offered for various individuals whose conditions or afflictions were brought to the attention of the convention chaplains by delegates.

At 3:05pm, President Hardy called members of the District Lifeline Team to the dais. Members spoke about the activities sponsored by this team to educate District congregations about life matters. A new chairman for the District Life Lineline Team is being sought.

At 3:10pm, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 2, Missions & Evangelization to the dais.

Floor Committee 2 moved adoption of Resolution 2-01A (*Page 6-27*). During debate, the motion was offered: ***“To amend Resolution 2-01A by inserting after line 39 the additional resolved which was removed by the Committee from Resolution 2-01 found in Convention Workbook on Page 4-77 (Lines 40-41).”*** The chair ruled that this would be considered a substitute motion: ***“To***

move adoption of Resolution 2-01.” By a 96–74 vote, consideration of the proposed substitute motion was adopted. Debate ensued on Resolution 2-01. Following debate, Resolution 2-01 was adopted [Y-133; N-40].

Floor Committee 2 moved adoption of Resolution 2-02 (Page 4-78). Following debate, Resolution 2-02 was adopted [Y-163; N-12].

At 3:30pm, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 1 to the dais.

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-06 (Page 4-73). During debate, the motion was offered: **“To amend the resolution by striking the term ‘young earth’ throughout the resolution.”** The Floor Committee received the amendment. Following debate, amended Resolution 1-06 was adopted [Y-139; N-35].

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-07A (Pages 6-26, 6-27). Following debate, Resolution 1-07A failed [Y-65; N-110].

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-01 (Page 4-67). During debate, the motion was offered: **“To replace ‘call on’ in Line 35 with ‘encourage.’”** The Floor Committee received the amendment. Following debate, Resolution 1-01 was adopted [Y-143; N-35].

Floor Committee 1 moved adoption of Resolution 1-02 (Pages 4-68, 4-69). Following debate, Resolution 1-02 was adopted [Y-133; N-44].

President Hardy announced where Circuit Caucuses were to meet to elect Synod Convention Delegates and where the Canada Corporation was to meet to conduct corporate elections/business. Secretary Zimmerman informed circuits of their responsibilities concerning the Synod Convention. Following prayer by Rev. C.J. Wright, delegates were dismissed. President Hardy declared the Convention to be in recess until 7:00pm.

CONVENTION MINUTES JUNE 20 – EVENING SESSION

President Hardy called the Convention to order at 7:00pm.

President Hardy invited James Wolf, member of the LCMS Board for International Mission, to the dais. He spoke about the role of the layperson in mission work to love the neighbor. He emphasized the benefits that mission work brings to all people involved, both those who are recipients of the mission and those who are doing the work. He encouraged delegates to reach out to others in their congregations to become personally engaged in mission work.

Following his presentation, James Wolf introduced Rev. Theodore Krey, LCMS International Mission Director for Latin America, to the delegates. He thanked the District for its past and continued support for the mission work being done in the Dominican Republic. He spoke to the goal of planting Lutheran churches within the Latin American nations. He also informed delegates of the Fall 2017 formation of a Lutheran seminary in the Dominican Republic that will prepare pastors for new congregations in Latin America. These efforts will accompany the various mercy ministries taking place in the Dominican Republic.

At 7:27pm, President Hardy invited Dr. David Schmidt of Concordia Seminary – St. Louis, MO to the dais. He greeted the delegates and thanked them on behalf of Seminary President Dale Meyer. He described the new curriculum that has been implemented at the seminary that has been designed to train pastors who have been raised in 21st Century North America. He also informed delegates of the financial assistance that will be given to cover all tuition for residential pastoral and deaconess students. He also spoke of how the seminary is looking to turn upward (toward God) and outward (toward new students) when reacting to times of distress.

At 7:40pm, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 3 to the dais.

Floor Committee 3 introduced Resolution 3-07 (*Page 4-97*) to the convention for action. Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, pastor of St. Michael – Fort Wayne, IN, first addressed the Convention in favor of the resolution. Rev. Wayne Morton, Chairman of the English District Board of Directors, responded by speaking against the resolution. Following debate but prior to the vote, prayer was offered by Rev. James Elsner, convention chaplain. Resolution 3-07 was adopted [*Y-125; N-51*].

Floor Committee 3 moved adoption of Resolution 3-06 (*Page 4-96*). Without debate, Resolution 3-06 was adopted [*Y-160; N-12*].

Floor Committee 3 moved adoption of Resolution 3-01 (*Pages 4-79, 4-80*). Following debate, Resolution 3-01 was adopted [*Y-112; N-64*].

Floor Committee 3 moved adoption of Resolution 3-02 (*Pages 4-80, 4-81*). Following debate, Resolution 3-02 was adopted [*Y-149; N-28*].

President Hardy declared the Convention to in recess until 8:00am on Thursday, June 21.

Submitted,

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