

SIXTH SESSION – WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 22, 2022

At 8:00 AM, delegates and guests reconvened in the gymnasium. President Hardy brought the Convention to order. He informed the delegates that business would conclude at 10:00 AM.

Morning prayers were conducted by Rev. Ryan Beffrey and the Youth Convention Representatives. Two youth representatives read devotions that they had written during their time at the Convention.

At 8:20 AM, President Hardy had a video about the District Missions Council presented for the delegates. The video explained the role that the council plays concerning missions being started and conducted within the District.

At 8:25 AM, Secretary Zimmerman provided the final credentials report of the Convention. The credentials report at the opening of the convention at 8:00 AM on June 22, 2022, was as follows:

Voting Delegates – Ordained:	70
Voting Delegates – Lay:	73
Total Voting Delegates:	143
<i>Total Advisory Delegates:</i>	29
Youth Representatives:	15
Board Members:	2
District Staff:	7
Guests/Presenters:	30
Total in Attendance	226

The credentials report was accepted.

President Hardy then called for approval of the minutes of the June 21 sessions of the Convention. Secretary Zimmerman directed the delegates' attention to the copies of the minutes from the June 21 sessions of the Convention (*June 22 Workbook Addendum, pp. 6-38 to 6-49*). Motion: ***"To approve the minutes as presented."*** Motion carried by voice vote.

At 8:30 AM, Synod President Matthew Harrison installed President Jamison Hardy into his third term as District President. President Hardy installed the newly elected Vice-Presidents.

District President's Address Summary

Following the installation of the District Praesidium, President Hardy addressed the Convention, first commenting about the challenges that the District had faced and met during the COVID-19 pandemic. He then spoke about the matter of engaging; his exhortation to the delegates is to engage the world according to the calling that they bear as Christians. President Hardy stated that pastors are not to run away from trouble, but toward it; bravery to do so comes because they are defending what God has entrusted to them, His people, His sheep. He echoed the message given earlier by General William Boykin, the Convention Speaker, that the fight is not coming, but is already here.

President Hardy's address highlighted the mission activity taking place within the District at four congregations: Blessed Sacrament – Hayden, ID; Holy Cross – Hazelwood, PA; St. John's – Clarksburg, WV; St. John the Divine – Chicago, IL.

President Hardy thanked the Vice-Presidents and Circuit Visitors for their assistance during the past triennium and declared his expectation that the newly-elected Vice-Presidents and Circuit Visitors would offer the same in the new triennium.

Convention Speaker Summary

At 8:45 AM, President Hardy invited Rev. Christopher Thoma to introduce Convention Speakers, Mr. Jack Phillips and Mr. Jake Warner. Mr. Warner, senior counsel for the Alliance Defending Freedom's Appellate Team, spoke about the Alliance Defending Freedom's legal activity to defend the religious freedom held by individuals and organizations within the United States. One of the organization's clients is Mr. Jack Phillips.

Mr. Phillips spoke to the delegates about his case in Lakewood, CO that centered on the refusal to design a custom wedding cake for a gay couple based on his religious beliefs. That refusal brought a charge against Mr. Phillips by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, leading to damage to Mr. Phillips' business. The legal matter between Mr. Phillips and his business, Masterpiece Cakeshop, and the Colorado Civil Rights Commission led to a case heard by the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Phillips prevailed, as the United States Supreme Court ruled that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission did not employ religious neutrality. Despite this legal victory, Mr. Phillips continues to face further litigation due to other individuals making requests for cakes to be made to commemorate or celebrate events that fall outside Biblical definitions for humanity, sexuality, and marriage. The Alliance Defending Freedom maintains their legal defense of Mr. Phillips, as well as other business owners in creative services facing similar legal challenges.

Following the speakers' presentation, a question-and-answer session was offered for the delegates.

At 9:40 AM, a video presentation from Lifeline was presented to delegates. The video introduced the life ministry resources that Lifeline helps to provide for District congregations.

At 9:45 AM, President Hardy summoned Floor Committee 1 to the dais.

Floor Committee moved adoption of Resolution 1-07: "To Reconsider Allowing 'Brain Death' Criteria for Determination of Death at End of Life" (*Convention Workbook, pp. 4-59 to 4-60*). Rev. Braden informed delegates that the Floor Committee investigated claims made by the authors of the original overture (Overture 1-09) that led to this resolution; articles and citations from medical journals that reinforced those claims were supplied to the Floor Committee. After brief discussion, the motion carried [*Y - 126; N - 11*].

Floor Committee moved declination of Resolution 1-01: "To Revise Paragraph 3a) of the Operating Agreement Between the Lutheran Church—Canada (LC-C) and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod" (*Convention Workbook, pp. 4-43 to 4-49*). Prior to introducing the resolution for declination, Rev. Braden indicated that the resolution is procedurally incorrect, as it directs the Synod President to take an action that is properly assigned to the Synod Board of Directors. He also noted that a nearly identical resolution was adopted and is being implemented. The motion was put to the delegates for a vote: "*To decline Resolution 1-01.*" Motion carried [*Y - 98; N - 31*].

With the hour appointed for closure having arrived, President Hardy declared the business sessions of the Convention to be closed at 10:00 AM.

CONVENTION CLOSING SERVICE – WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 22, 2022

Delegates were directed to the Chapel of the Holy Trinity for Choral Matins with Commemoration of the Departed, which began at 10:30 AM. Rev. R. Wayne Morton preached; Rev. Douglas Spittel officiated; the Vice-Presidents of the District conducted the commemoration. During the service, President Hardy installed the newly-elected Circuit Visitors and members of the Board of Directors. At the end of the service, President Hardy conducted the Rite of Closing a Convention, bringing the 57th Regular Convention of the English District to its conclusion.

Submitted,

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