

Convention Minutes

Opening Worship Service Saturday, July 9, 2016

Opening Divine Service with Holy Communion

The opening worship service of the 66th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod was held in the Wisconsin Center in downtown Milwaukee under the theme, “Upon This Rock: Repent, Confess, Rejoice.” The service was hosted by Peace Lutheran Church of Sussex, Wisconsin, with its pastor, the Reverend Peter Bender, presiding. Rev. William Weedon, Director of Worship and LCMS International Center Chaplain, served as Assisting Minister.

The Council of Presidents of the Synod and the Presidents and Bishops of LCMS Partner Churches participated in the service and the distribution of the Sacrament. A choir of singers from Milwaukee area LCMS congregations, conducted by Rev. Stephen Rosebrock, Kantor of Mount Olive Lutheran Church and Christian Day School, participated in the service, with Dr. James Freese, Professor of Music at Concordia University Wisconsin, serving as organist and Cantor Phillip Magness of Immanuel Lutheran church of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, serving as pianist. The Convention Brass Ensemble, Rachel Paul, and Rita Mitchell provided musical accompaniment.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, preached the sermon based on the convention theme and Matthew 16:13–20. He recalled Martin Luther’s refusal to “recant” time and again, his statement to become one of great consequence for him and his day and also for ours: “I am neither able nor willing to recant.” President Harrison noted that this was Luther’s moment, and it was also the moment of the birth of our church. Now, as then, the future of our Lutheran Church does not depend on us, but “Upon This Rock,” the doctrine of the Word of God.

[The entire text of Dr. Harrison’s sermon is printed elsewhere in the 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.]

Session 1 Sunday a.m. July 10, 2016

Matins

For the Order of Matins, Rev. Christopher S. Esget, Sixth Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (East-Southeast Region) served as preacher, with Chaplain William Weedon serving as liturgist. Cantor Phillip Magness and instrumentalists Matthew Janssen, Eric Carlson, Erica Rosebrock, and Paul Tuskowski provided accompaniment and special music.

[The entire text of Rev. Esget’s homily is printed elsewhere in the 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.]

Convention Opening and Presentation of Gavel

President Matthew C. Harrison called the assembly to order and called on Rev. Dr. Daniel Harmelink, Executive Director of Concordia Historical Institute, to present the historic gavel traditionally used by the chair to call Synod conventions officially to order. In presenting the gavel, Dr. Harmelink spoke of the unique history and inscriptions on the gavel, which is ordinarily on display at the Institute’s Lutheran History Museum in the LCMS International Center.

Committee 19: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

President Harrison called upon Rev. Greg Walton, President of the Florida-Georgia District and chairman of Committee 19, Registration, Credentials, and Elections, to introduce the electronic voting system.

Chairman Walton then presented the initial registration report, noting that a total of 1,136 voting delegates had pre-registered for the convention. He reported the following present for the opening of the convention:

Voting delegates	1,106
Advisory delegates	157
Advisory representatives	197
Special guests and others	73

A motion was introduced and carried to adopt the report of the committee [Yes votes: 1,037; No votes: 14]. The chair declared the presence of a quorum and then introduced those seated at the front who would be the most participant in the convention: the Council of Presidents, the Commissions on Handbook and Constitutional Matters, the Board of Directors, executive directors and staff, special international guests, Parliamentarian Chris Dickey, Secretary Raymond Hartwig, Assistant Secretary Marvin Temme, convention timekeepers Paul Philps and David Totsky, and those assisting the chair during the convention, including First Vice-President Herbert Mueller, Jon Vieker, Barbara Below, and Dorothy Krans.

Adoption of Standing Rules

First Vice-President Herbert Mueller assumed the chair and called attention to the proposed Special Standing Rules for the convention, printed on pages 329–331 in Part 2 of the Sunday issue of *Today's Business (TB)*. After a motion to adopt the Special Standing Rules was introduced and during discussion, a motion was introduced to amend Rule 15 by adding a second-last sentence to the existing rule: “To ensure transparency and provide for greater harmony and unity in the convention, the queue will be made visible to the convention floor.” After discussion, the motion to amend Rule 15 was carried [Yes: 796; No: 241]. A second motion was introduced to amend Rule 2 by deleting the word “normally” in the first line. After discussion, a motion to end debate was introduced and carried [Yes: 993; No: 62], and the motion to amend Rule 2 failed [Yes: 95; No: 959]. This was immediately followed by the introduction of a motion to end debate on the main motion. This motion carried [Yes: 914; No: 145], and the main motion to adopt the Special Standing Rules as amended was also carried [Yes: 1,013; No: 52].

Convention Schedule

The chair called attention to the Convention Schedule as published on pages 332–333 in Part 2 of the Sunday issue of *Today's Business*, noting changes from the tentative schedule that had been published previously. A motion to adopt the Convention Schedule was formally introduced. During discussion, a motion was introduced to “amend the Convention Schedule by moving all voting on resolutions related to Floor Committee 12 to no later than the end of business on Wednesday.” After clarification and discussion, a motion to end debate was carried [Yes: 971; No: 83] and the motion to amend the schedule also was carried [Yes: 527; No: 518]. Discussion continued on the main motion as amended until a motion to end debate was introduced and carried [Yes: 971; No: 84]. The Convention Schedule was then adopted as amended [Yes: 974; No: 80].

A quorum being present and the Convention Schedule having been adopted, Vice-President Herbert Mueller, using the historic gavel, declared the 66th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to be in session “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

President's Report (Part 3)

After offering numerous examples of atrocities and cultural decline past and present, President Harrison recalled that Jesus said, “Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail.” This we believe even as we also believe Jesus’ words of forgiveness and promise. Even as Jesus and the apostles were bold, we too must go on the offensive and be bold.

President Harrison detailed a number of statistics from recent studies related to decline in numbers in the Synod due to societal changes, especially birth rate. But he also reminded the convention that our Synod and its congregations are greatly blessed, second to no other church body in message and capacity to make a difference worldwide.

President Harrison listed a number of outstanding issues to be addressed by the convention: lay deacon ministry; ecclesiastical supervision; Bylaw 3.8.3 and the Board for International Mission; movement toward a confederacy of districts and the role of ecclesiastical supervision; etc. He stated that one purpose of the Synod presidency is to keep districts together as one Synod and encouraged that we together boldly confess our faith so loudly that the nations may hear. He advocated the reelection of the current vice-presidents, speaking of their good working relationship and the support that he has received. He spoke similarly of the current Board of Directors. He also spoke of the difficulties and challenges faced by his family and how his family has benefitted from the experience.

[The entire text of Part 3 of the President's Report is printed elsewhere in the 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.]

Welcome and Greetings from the South Wisconsin District

South Wisconsin District President John Wille welcomed delegates back to Milwaukee after 45 years since the convention last met in his city. Calling President Harrison's and Vice-President Mueller's wives to the podium he presented flowers to recognize the support they have provided to their husbands.

Convention Essay: "Upon this Rock: Repent, Confess, Rejoice"

[The entire text of the essay by Dr. Larry Rast, President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, is printed elsewhere in the 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.]

Committee 2: International Mission

Minnesota North District President Donald Fondow, Chairman of Committee 2, introduced the work of his committee, advocating that now is the time to expand mission efforts in spite of all that would discourage us in our day, this time of crisis requiring movement forward. Res. 2-01 "To Thank God for Faithful Service of LCMS Missionaries" (*TB*, p. 49—preconvention issue) was read and introduced by the committee. During discussion, a motion to amend the resolution by striking its final resolve paragraph was introduced but failed [Yes: 178; No: 820] and discussion continued. When the chair advocated ending debate, he was supported by show of hands, and Res. 2-01 was adopted as presented [Yes: 928; No: 96].

Res. 2-02 "To Thank God for Increase in Number of LCMS Career Missionaries and Invite Further Increase and Support for Synod's Mission Work" (*TB*, p. 49—preconvention issue) was introduced and discussed. After a motion to end debate was carried [Yes: 916; No: 100], Res. 2-02 was adopted as presented [Yes: 949; No: 66].

Committee 1: National Mission

Committee 1 Chairman Mark Miller, President of the Central Illinois District, introduced his committee and its work. The committee then introduced Res. 1-01 "To Expand Evangelism and Encourage Use of *Every One His Witness*" (*TB*, p. 43—preconvention issue). After discussion, a motion to end debate was carried [Yes: 863; No: 171] and Res. 1-01 was adopted as presented [Yes: 778; No: 247].

Res. 1-02 "To Encourage Church Planting throughout the Synod and Support of the 'Mission Field: USA' Initiative" (*TB*, p. 44—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. During discussion, a motion was introduced to amend the resolution by striking the fourth whereas paragraph: "WHEREAS, The LCMS needs to locate churches where the greatest populations of people are located." The committee agreed to striking the paragraph. As discussion continued on the resolution, the chair noted that the Orders of the Day would soon need to be called. He put to the assembly the question whether it would be willing to close debate. The assembly agreed to close debate [Yes: 866; No: 157] and Res. 1-02 was adopted as changed [Yes: 767; No: 261].

Session 2 Sunday p.m. July 10, 2016

Midday Prayer

After President Matthew Harrison called the convention back to order, the session began with the Order of Midday Prayer. Fifth Vice-President Nabil Nour provided the homily. Chaplain Peter Bender served as liturgist, and Cantor Phillip Magness served as organist. The youth choir of Trinity Lutheran Church of Lisle, Illinois, directed by James Marriott, and trumpet instrumentalists Matthew Janssen and Matthew Wolf provided special music.

[The entire text of Rev. Nour's homily is printed elsewhere in the 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.]

Committee 19: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

Committee 19 Chairman Greg Walton described the process that led to the election of the President of the Synod, noting the three final candidates and the numbers of votes received and declaring Matthew Harrison elected (*TB*, p. 334—Part 2, Sunday issue). During his response, President Harrison invited his family to the podium and introduced them to the assembly.

Committee Chairman Walton provided an update of the convention registration report, noting that the number of advisory representatives reported earlier was a miscalculation. He reported the following numbers of delegates and representatives registered and present for the convention:

Voting delegates	1,111
Advisory delegates	157
Advisory representatives	171

The report was approved by declaration of the chair without objection from the assembly.

First Vice-President Election

Committee Chairman Walton then prepared the assembly for the election of the First Vice-President by providing a review of the process used to arrive at the five candidates on the ballot (*TB*, p. 335—Part 2, Sunday issue). President Harrison then called on the chaplain to lead the assembly in prayer before proceeding with the balloting for First Vice-President.

The results of the first (and only) ballot in the election of the First Vice-President were as follows:

Carl C. Fickenschier, II	52
Herbert C. Mueller, Jr.	677 (declared elected)
Scott R. Murray	158
Daniel Preus	86
John C. Wohlrabe, Jr.	58

Election of Regional Vice-Presidents

Balloting continued for the regional vice-president positions, with the results as follows:

Central Region Vice-President (3-year term)	Luther C. Brunette	138	
	Charles J. Neugebauer	43	
	Daniel Preus	601 (declared elected)	
	Ronald D. Rall	59	
	Scott K. Seidler	201	
East-Southeast Region Vice-President (3-year term)	Victor J. Belton	365	417
	Jon T. Diefenthaler	119	78
	Christopher S. Esget	469	567 (declared elected)
	Robert E. Hartwell	48	
	Jeffrey Eric Skopak	38	
Great Lakes Region Vice-President (3-year term)	Greg S. Griffith	67	
	C. William Hoesman	186	

	Randolph H. Raasch	97
	Keith A. Speaks	54
	John C. Wohlrabe, Jr.	642 (declared elected)
Great Plains Region Vice-President (3-year term)	Nabil S. Nour	627 (declared elected)
	Thomas J. Pfotenhauer	72
	Clint K. Poppe	86
	Luke R. Schnake	71
	Russell L. Sommerfeld	192
West-Southwest Region Vice-President (3-year term)	Ronald D. Burcham	131
	Jonathan J. Coyne	42
	Scott R. Murray	614 (declared elected)
	Timothy D. Runtsch	176
	William H. Tucker	93

Multi-Ballot Election to Determine Ranking of Vice-Presidents Two thru Six

For 2nd Vice-President	Christopher S. Esget	124		
	Scott R. Murray	270	432	557 (elected 2nd Vice-President)
	Nabil S. Nour	220	224	246
	Daniel Preus	221	183	
	John C. Wohlrabe, Jr.	225	229	254
For 3rd Vice-President	Christopher S. Esget	135		
	Nabil S. Nour	350	479	563 (elected 3rd Vice-President)
	Daniel Preus	215	155	
	John C. Wohlrabe, Jr.	350	421	503
For 4th Vice-President	Christopher S. Esget	214		
	Daniel Preus	248		
	John C. Wohlrabe, Jr.	581		(elected 4th Vice-President)
For 5th Vice-President	Christopher S. Esget	476		
	Daniel Preus	570		(elected 5th Vice-President)
For 6th Vice-President	Christopher S. Esget			(6th Vice-President)

Committee 20: Floor Nominations for Secretary of Synod Election

Committee 20 (Committee for Convention Nominations) Chairman Ronald Garwood called attention to the slate of candidates for the Office of Secretary provided by his committee and provided information regarding the nominating process. When President Harrison opened the floor for nominations, motions were introduced to nominate Rev. John P. Gierke of Conway, Arkansas, and Rev. Dan P. Gilbert of Hillside, Illinois, for the office of Secretary. By separate votes, John P. Gierke [Yes: 619; No: 398] and Dan P. Gilbert [Yes: 594; No: 433] were added to the slate. Noting no further interest in making floor nominations, the chair declared nominations closed.

Omnibus Resolution A

After a correction was noted (adding Ov. 7-07 to the list), a motion was introduced to adopt Omnibus Resolution A (TB, pp. 342ff.—Part 2, Sunday issue). During the discussion that followed, a motion was introduced to amend the resolution by striking Overtures 11-30 and 11-32. This motion failed (Yes: 492; No: 505). A motion was then introduced to add Res. 12-01A to the omnibus resolution, this resolution to be referred to the Council of Presidents for further study. After a brief recess was called by the chair to consider these intended actions, the Secretary of the Synod reported that all three of these actions were out of order. Overture 7-07 was discovered to be a resolution and not an overture, so that it and the attempted addition of Res. 12-01A were both out of order since this omnibus

resolution is for overtures and not resolutions. It had also been learned that Overtures 11-30 and 11-32 had already been removed from the resolution by Committee 11, leaving Omnibus Resolution A without change except for the striking of Overtures 11-30 and 11-32. After further discussion, a motion to end debate was carried [Yes: 900; No: 126], and Omnibus Resolution A was adopted as changed [Yes: 923; No: 97].

Committee 13: Routes to Ministry

Vice-President Herbert Mueller assumed the chair of the convention and called on Committee 13 Chairman Roger Paavola to introduce the work of his committee. Res. 4-06A Task Force member Russell Sommerfeld was asked by the committee to use this first segment of the committee's time to provide an introduction to the resolutions related to the report of the task force that addressed the matter of licensed lay deacons. Chairman Mueller encouraged careful study of these materials in preparation for consideration of Res. 13-01A and 13-02A later in the convention.

[The text of Rev. Sommerfeld's presentation was published in the Monday issue of *Today's Business*, pp. 336ff.]

Committee 15: Reformation

Vice-President Daniel Preus assumed the chair of the convention. He called on Committee 15 Chairman Peter Lange, President of the Kansas District, for his committee's report, who called the assembly's attention to Res. 15-01 "To Give Thanks for Gospel Focus of 'The Wittenberg Project'" (*TB*, pp. 186f.—preconvention issue) and called on Wittenberg Society Chairman Michael Kumm to provide a history of the project. Res. 15-01 was then formally introduced by the committee and, after discussion and a motion to end debate that was introduced and carried [Yes: 984; No: 37], Res. 15-01 was adopted as presented [Yes: 973; No: 37].

Res. 15-02A "To Encourage Use of Two-Hour Luther Documentary" (*TB*, pp. 377f.—Part 2, Sunday issue) was introduced by the committee and a video showing some of the documentary was aired. After discussion, a motion to end debate was carried [Yes: 1005; No: 36] and Res. 15-02A was adopted as presented [Yes: 997; No: 23].

Res. 15-03 "To Commend Use of Resources Provided for Reformation 2017 500th Anniversary" (*TB*, pp. 187f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee and adopted as presented without discussion [Yes: 988; No: 20].

Res. 15-04A "To Honor 500th Anniversary of the Reformation by Growing in the Word and Showing Christ to the World" (*TB*, p. 378—Part 2, Sunday issue) was introduced by the committee and, after discussion, adopted as presented [Yes: 996; No: 33].

Res. 15-06 "To Encourage Study of Augsburg Confession in Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation" (*TB*, p. 386—Part 2, Sunday issue) was introduced by the committee and, after brief discussion, adopted as presented [Yes: 989; No: 32].

Committee 3: Mercy

Committee 3 Chairman Lee Hagan, President of the Missouri District, introduced the work of his committee with words of Scripture and a video discussing the need for mercy in many ways every day. He then introduced Res. 3-01 "To Commend and Encourage Work of LCMS Disaster Response" (*TB*, p. 57—preconvention issue) on behalf of his committee which, after discussion, was adopted as presented by show of hands.

Committee Chairman Hagan introduced LCMS National Housing Support Corporation Executive Director Nicole Ridley to describe the work of her organization. On behalf of his committee he then introduced Res. 3-02 "To Commend Work of LCMS National Housing Support Corporation" (*TB*, p. 58—preconvention issue) which, after discussion, was adopted as presented by voice vote.

Chairman Hagan also introduced Res. 3-05A "To Give Thanks to God and Encourage Support for the Ministries of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran Services in America, and Lutheran World Relief" (*TB*, p. 350—Part 2, Sunday issue), which was read in part by representatives from the three social service agencies.

Extensive discussion followed until the chair, noting the Orders of the Day, asked whether the assembly was ready to end debate. Debate was ended [Yes: 855; No: 104] and Res. 3-05A was adopted as presented [Yes: 748; No: 227].

Evening Prayer

Chaplain William Weedon, organist Phillip Magness, and soloist Jennifer Barnickel-Fitch led and accompanied the assembly in the Order of Evening Prayer.

Session 3 Monday a.m. July 11, 2016

Service of Confession and Absolution

Vice-President Herbert Mueller provided the homily for the Service of Confession and Absolution that opened the convention's second day. Chaplain William Weedon served as liturgist and Cantor Phillip Magness as organist, with special music provided by a choir from Peace Lutheran Church of Sussex, Wisconsin, and a brass trio (Matthew Janssen, Matthew Wolf, and Allison Schweitzer).

[The entire text of Vice-President Mueller's homily is printed elsewhere in the 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.]

Greetings—Concordia Publishing House

After calling the meeting to order, President Harrison called on Dr. Bruce Kintz, President and Chief Executive Officer of Concordia Publishing House, for words of greeting. Dr. Kintz spoke of the critical work of CPH to "surround God's people with the Word of God" as the publishing arm of the Synod. A video presentation introduced some of the publishing house's latest products.

Committee 11: Structure and Administration

Committee 11 Chairman Terry Cripe, President of the Ohio District, began his committee's presentation to the convention by directing the convention to Res. 11-01 "To Hold National and District Conventions Every Four Years" (*TB*, p. 128—preconvention issue). After the resolution was formally introduced by the committee and after extensive discussion, a motion was introduced to end debate on the resolution. The motion failed [Yes: 674; No: 382] and debate continued. After further discussion, a motion was again introduced to end debate, which motion was carried [Yes: 889; No: 160]. In the vote that followed, Res. 11-01 was not adopted [Yes: 470; No: 597].

Res. 11-03A "To Change Bylaws re District Convention Attendance as Prerequisite for Voting for Synod President" (*TB*, p. 354—Part 2, Sunday edition) was introduced by the committee. The chair called on Commission on Constitutional Matters Chairman George Gude to explain how amendments to the Constitution and/or Bylaws may properly be made from the floor of the convention. Discussion of the resolution followed until the Orders of the Day prompted the chair to ask for a show of hands to determine whether the assembly wished to end debate. Debate was ended and Res. 11-03A was adopted as presented [Yes: 724; No: 334].

Committee 14: Church and Culture

Committee 14 Chairman Terry Forke, President of the Montana District, was introduced to present the work of his committee. After a lighthearted exchange of comments with the chair regarding their mustaches, he formally introduced Res. 14-01 "To Encourage Intentional Leadership in Matters of Religious Freedom" (*TB*, p. 177—preconvention edition) on behalf of his committee. With Vice-President Scott Murray assuming the chair of the meeting, discussion continued until a motion was introduced to end debate. The motion was carried [Yes: 982; No: 84] and Res. 14-01 was adopted as presented [Yes: 976; No: 95].

Res. 14-05 "To Commend *In Christ All Things Hold Together: The Intersection of Science and Christian Theology*" (*TB*, p. 181—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. Discussion followed until a motion was

introduced to end debate. The motion carried [Yes: 966; No: 68] and Res. 14-05 was adopted as presented [Yes: 982; No: 54].

Res. 14-06 “To Encourage Outreach to Muslim Neighbors” (printed on a separate handout) was introduced by the committee. After discussion, a motion was introduced to amend the resolution by adding a new second paragraph: “WHEREAS, Christ sends us as sheep among wolves and directs us to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves because men will deliver us to court (Matt. 10:16–17).” The committee was amenable to the change and the convention did not object to the addition. Discussion continued until the Orders of the Day were called.

Committee 19: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

Vice-President Herbert Mueller, having assumed the chair, called on the chairman of the Registrations, Credentials, and Elections Committee for an updated registration report. Committee 19 Chairman Walton, reporting that 1,123 voting delegates had now registered, moved the adoption of his report. With no objection from the assembly, the motion was declared carried.

Balloting for Election of Secretary of Synod and Regional Members of the LCMS Board of Directors

Committee 19 Chairman Walton prepared the convention for its vote for the election of the Secretary of the Synod. After reviewing the names on the ballot, he called for the vote, with the following result after a second ballot (ballots listed in columns):

For Secretary of the Synod: (3-yr term)	Bart Day	84	
	John Gierke	80	
	Dan Gilbert	222	358
	David L. Mahsman	73	
	Martin R. Noland	84	
	Ken R. Schurb	86	
	John Wollenburg Sias	417	724 (declared elected)

The same process was used for the election of regional lay members of the LCMS Board of Directors, with the following results:

For Regional Lay Members of the LCMS Board of Directors:

East-Southeast Region (6-year term)	Gilbert M. F. Brauch, Jr.	82	
	Keith Frndak	460	586 (declared elected)
	Jean Hanson	315	394
	Stuart Nichols	83	67
	Lloyd Wardley	49	
Great Lakes Region (6-year term)	James W. Carter, Jr.	542	(declared elected)
	Willard Ducharme	120	
	Dale D. Gust	159	
	Craig V. Timm	147	
	Matthew Voigt	72	
Great Plains Region (6-year term)	Thomas R. Halvorson	165	191
	Larry Harrington	509	648 (declared elected)
	John P. Riley	105	
	Robert P. Wurl	75	
	Andrew Zoeller	184	214

Convention Essay—“Upon This Rock: Repent”

[The entire text of this essay by Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray, Executive Staff—LCMS Office of National Mission, is printed elsewhere in the 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.]

Committee 5: Theology and Church Relations

Before Committee 5 began its presentation, a delegate sought the attention of the chair and moved to amend Standing Rule 17 (*TB*, p. 18) by changing the rule from two minutes to one minute per speech at the microphone. After the motion was seconded, discussion continued until a motion to end debate was introduced. The motion to end debate carried [Yes: 790; No: 51], following which the motion to amend the standing rule failed [Yes: 353; No: 506].

Committee 5 Chairman Scott Murray, LCMS Vice-President, presented his committee's resolutions to the convention. Res. 5-01 "To Endorse Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with Lutheran Church in Norway (*TB*, pp. 69ff.—preconvention issue) was then formally introduced by the committee and briefly discussed. When the chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to end debate, the assembly responded in the affirmative and Res. 5-01 was adopted by voice vote (announced unanimous by the chair).

Res. 5-02 "To Endorse Altar and Pulpit Fellowship with Lutheran Church of Uruguay" (*TB*, pp. 71f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee and adopted without discussion by voice vote (again announced as unanimous by the chair).

Res. 5-03 "To Recognize Iglesia Luterana en Guatemala as a Self-Governing Partner Church" (*TB*, pp. 73f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. During discussion, a delegate moved to bundle this resolution with two similar resolutions: Res. 5-04 "To Recognize Iglesia Luterana de Venezuela as a Self-Governing Partner Church" (*TB*, pp. 74f.—preconvention issue) and Res. 5-05 "To Recognize Evangelical Lutheran Church in Almaty and the District of Almaty – Republic of Kazakhstan as a Self-Governing Partner Church" (*TB*, pp. 75f.—preconvention issue) into one action. The convention voted to do so [Yes: 977; No: 25]. After Res. 5-03, Res. 5-04, and Res. 5-05 were briefly introduced, debate was ended by show of hands and the motion to adopt all three resolutions was carried unanimously.

Res. 5-06 "To Recognize Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Republic of Chile – IELCHI as a Partner Church" (*TB*, pp. 76f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. After Res. 5-06 was adopted by voice vote without discussion, the assembly fulfilled the resolve that was common to all of the foregoing resolutions by singing the Common Doxology.

Dr. Albert Collver, Director of Church Relations and Assistant to the President, introduced the representatives from these new church partners in attendance at the convention:

The Lutheran Church of Norway (Res. 5-01)
Provisional Bishop Torkild Masvie

The Lutheran Church of Uruguay (Res. 5-02)
Presiding Pastor André Luiz Müller

The Lutheran Church in Guatemala (Res. 5-03)
President Abdiel Orozco

The Lutheran Church of Venezuela (Res. 5-04)
President J. Elias Lozano

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Almaty and the District of Almaty -- Republic of Kazakhstan (Res. 5-05)
President Alexander Burtsev

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Republic of Chile (Res. 5-06)
President Christian E. Rautenberg

Res. 5-07 "To Affirm and Encourage Work of the International Lutheran Council (ILC)" (*TB*, pp. 77f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee after the assembly was addressed by ILC representative, Rev.

André Luiz Müller, Presiding Pastor of the Lutheran Church of Uruguay, who spoke briefly of the importance of the treaty of communion between churches, referencing Philippians 2:2. Without discussion, the resolution was adopted by a standing vote.

Following the adoption of Res. 5-07, representatives of partner churches present for the convention were introduced by the Rev. Dr. Albert Collver, Director of Church Relations and Assistant to the President:

Rev. André Luiz Müller (Lutheran Church of Uruguay)
Rev. Airton Schroeder (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil)
Bishop Alexander Burtsev (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Almaty and the District of Almaty—Republic of Kazakhstan)
Rev. Alexander Streltsov (Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church)
Rev. Tatsumi Yoshida (Japan Lutheran Church)
President Adalberto Hiller (Portugese Evangelical Lutheran Church)
Bishop Arri Kugappi (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia)
Bishop Amos Boley (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia)

Committee 13: Routes to Ministry

Committee 13 Chairman Roger Paavola introduced the work of his committee and called on a committee member to read and formally introduce Res. 13-01A “To Exalt and Equip the Blessed Partnership Between the Royal Priesthood and the Office of the Public Ministry” (*TB*, p. 371ff.—Part 2, Sunday issue). During the discussion that followed, the word “North” was added as a friendly amendment to the now-second-last resolve, subparagraph 2, after the word “multicultural.” An amendment was proposed and accepted to add to the resolution: “And be it finally *Resolved*, That the task force complete its work and present its recommendation to the Synod in 2018 for consideration at the 2019 convention.” A motion to amend the resolution by adding a final resolve paragraph that would “provide funding of \$200,000 per year for the next three years to truly equip the priesthood of all believers” was discussed until a motion to end debate was carried [Yes: 972; No: 70] and the motion to amend failed [Yes: 132; No: 936]. When discussion of the resolution resumed, a motion to end debate was carried [Yes: 937; No: 115], whereupon Res. 13-01A was adopted as changed and amended [Yes: 911; No: 159].

Session 4

Monday p.m. July 11, 2016

Midday Prayer

Chaplain Peter Bender served as liturgist for the Order of Midday Prayer. Rev. Gregory Seltz, Speaker of “The Lutheran Hour,” provided the homily based on Luke 15:11–32. Accompanying music was provided by Cantor Phillip Magness, keyboardist and soloist, and instrumentalists Rachel and Sarah May, Kara Rhode, Elisabeth Schneider, Rachel Paul, Jennifer Torkelson, Sophie Steger, and Rev. Fred Baue.

[The entire text of Rev. Seltz’ homily is printed elsewhere in the 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.]

Minutes

A draft of the minutes for Sessions 1 and 2 was presented and approved, with editorial comments received by the Secretary to be incorporated in the final version that will be published in the 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.

Committee 6: Seminaries

North Dakota District President James Baneck, Chairman of Committee 6, thanked his committee and introduced Res. 6-02 “To Uphold the Scriptural and Confessional Qualifications of the Office of the Holy Ministry” (*TB*, p. 90—preconvention issue). After discussion, the chair tested the will of the assembly to end debate. Debate was ended [Yes: 813; No: 224] and Res. 6-02 was adopted [Yes: 875; No: 177].

Special Presentation—Ryan Anderson

Dr. Ryan Anderson was introduced as a special guest to speak on the Supreme Court's ruling redefining marriage. He spoke of the distance that American society has come in no more than 50 years where marriage is concerned, and he spoke of what to expect going forward. Redefinition of marriage is taking reproductive technology and many other areas developed by heterosexual society to new levels. Schools are next in line for being at risk. Last will be the free exercise of religion. Three changes are behind these challenges: First, the challenge of secularism which says that religion has no role outside of the chapel, which has been aided by the collapse of the mainline churches. The second change is the growth of the state and of government regulations, with people of faith now having to justify their exceptions. The third change is the sexual revolution and its understanding of liberty as license. Where to place our focus? Respond from the substance of what we believe, with both a theology and a philosophy of the body and gender identity, and live out the truth in our own lives. Because we have failed to do this in the past, we have ourselves to blame.

Committee 20: Committee for Convention Nominations

Vice-President Christopher Esget assumed the chair and called on Dr. Ronald Garwood, former President of the Wyoming District and Chairman of the Committee for Convention Nominations, for the second part of his report to the convention. Dr. Garwood called attention to the committee's printed report and reviewed the changes that have been made to the report since it was published in the *Biographical Synopses & Statements of Nominees* booklet that accompanied the *Convention Workbook*. The chair called upon the committee chairman for additional instructions before opening the floor for nominations.

Nominated from the floor were the following, in each case by a motion that was seconded and carried:

James D. Woelmer, Allen, TX, for Concordia University Nebraska Board of Regents [Yes: 759; No: 175]
Carol Fehrmann, Brooklyn Park, MN, for Concordia Univ. St. Paul Board of Regents [Yes: 690; No: 212]
Paul P. Edmon, Medford, MA, for Concordia Seminary St. Louis Board of Regents [Yes: 674; No: 171]
George W. Lowrey, Jr., Arlington TX, for LCMS Board of Directors [Yes: 584; No: 226]
Geoffrey B. McGuire, Dallas, TX, for Concordia University Texas Board of Regents [Yes: 659; No: 158]
Rev. M. Alan Taylor, Galveston, TX, for Concordia Univ. Texas Board of Regents [Yes: 651; No: 152]
Mrs. Joy Anderson, Prior Lake, MN, for Concordia Univ. St. Paul Board of Regents [Yes: 577; No: 181]

Special Presentation—Military Chaplains

Vice-President Herbert Mueller assumed the chair and introduced Chaplain Craig Muehler, LCMS Director of Ministry to the Armed Forces, who introduced three Missouri Synod active duty chaplains representing the military chaplains of the Synod:

- Chaplain (Colonel) Jonathan E. Shaw, U.S. Army Europe Command Chaplain, Headquarters, Wiesbaden, Germany
- CAPT Gregory N. Todd, Chaplain Corps, USN, Chaplain of the U.S. Coast Guard
- Chaplain, Lt Col Gregory Jans, U.S. Air Force, the 60th Medical Group and David Grant Medical Center, Travis AFB, CA.

Chaplain Muehler showed a video of chaplains in action and spoke of the need for men like these to preach the Gospel and minister to active and veteran military and their families.

Committee 12: Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution

Committee 12 Chairman John Wille introduced his committee and spoke of the function of ecclesiastical supervision in the Synod. He then introduced Res. 12-01A "To Restore Right of Accuser to Appeal When a District President Fails to Act or Declines to Suspend" (*TB*, p. 362—Part 2, Sunday issue), reading it in its entirety. During discussion, a motion was introduced to refer the resolution to the COP for further study. After discussion of the motion to refer, a motion to end debate on the motion was introduced and carried [Yes: 785; No: 271]. In the vote that followed, the motion to refer failed to carry [Yes: 495; No: 599]. Discussion of Res. 12-01A continued until a motion "to delay

action until tomorrow” was introduced and discussed. A motion to end debate was carried [Yes: 747; No: 310], but the motion to delay action failed [Yes: 521; No: 542]. The chair called the Orders of the Day.

Special Presentation—Honoring Missionaries

After a special prayer was offered for a tragic incident reported in St. Joseph, Michigan, the chair called on Dr. Ed Grimenstein of the Synod’s Office of International Mission executive staff for recognition of missionary families. At the time of the 2013 LCMS convention, the Synod had 68 career missionaries in the foreign mission fields, including approximately 35 spouses and 80 children. In response to an action by the last convention, that number has increased to 125 career missionaries at present, with 65 spouses and an additional 100 children, each a bright light in a dark world. Dr. Grimenstein emphasized that, more than “extras,” spouses and children are important to the field, and the OIM is dedicated to taking good care of them. He introduced a number of missionary families present at the convention.

Committee 7: University Education

President Harrison assuming the chair, Committee 7 Chairman Timothy Scharr, President of the Southern Illinois District, began the committee’s presentation of its proposed resolutions with a video sharing the message and unique difference of the Synod’s Concordia University System. After reporting that his committee had withdrawn Res. 7-07 to allow further consideration of its subject matter, he called Dr. Dean O. Wenthe, President of Concordia University System, to the podium, who spoke of the multiple challenges faced by CUS boards of regents and called the CUS presidents in attendance forward to introduce themselves and together “receive the encouragement of the assembly.”

Committee Chairman Scharr introduced Res. 7-01A “To Adopt Lutheran Identity Statement for CUS Institutions as Prepared by CUS Presidents” (*TB*, pp. 354ff.—Monday issue) on behalf of his committee. After the resolution was read in its entirety, the chair asked for a voice vote to end debate and Res. 7-01A was adopted as presented [Yes: 927; No: 43].

Res. 7-08 “To Celebrate 125th Anniversary of Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota” (*TB*, pp. 379f.—Monday issue) was next introduced by the committee. Res. 7-08 was adopted by voice vote, after which President Harrison offered the prayer of special thanksgiving and praise called for by the resolution.

Res. 7-05A “To Endorse Roster Status for Graduates of Classical Liberal Studies and Other Teacher Education Programs” (*TB*, pp. 364f.—Monday issue) was introduced by the committee chairman and its resolve paragraphs read by a committee member. The chair asked for the assembly’s consent to proceed directly to voting on the resolution. Hearing no objection, the chair called for the vote and Res. 7-05A was adopted as presented [Yes: 912; No: 39].

Closing Prayer

After announcements, the chair called on Convention Chaplain William Weedon to provide an evening prayer.

Session 5 Tuesday a.m. July 12, 2016

Matins

Rev. Laokouxang (Kou) Searing, Associate Professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, served as preacher, Chaplain Peter Bender as liturgist, and Cantor Phillip Magness as organist. Matthew Wolf, Paul Reske, Matthew Janssen, and John Jaeckel provided brass accompaniment.

[The entire text of Rev. Searing’s homily is printed elsewhere in the 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.]

Special Recognition

President Harrison introduced the newly elected vice-presidents of the Synod according to their new ranking as determined by previous action of the convention:

Herbert C. Mueller, Jr.	(First Vice-President)
Scott R. Murray	(Second Vice-President)
Nabil S. Nour	(Third Vice-President)
John C. Wohlrabe, Jr.	(Fourth Vice-President)
Daniel Preus	(Fifth Vice-President)
Christopher S. Esget	(Sixth Vice-President).

Committee 13: Routes to Ministry

As Committee 13 was called forward, the chair recognized the chairman of Committee 19: Registration, Credentials, and Elections Committee to receive the current voter registration report. Committee Chairman Greg Walton reported that the voter attendance report remained the same as last reported: 1,123 voting delegates. The chair noted that since the report remained the same as reported earlier, there would be no need to repeat its adoption.

As Committee 13 prepared to make its presentation, a delegate obtained the attention of the chair and requested that the chair use Special Standing Rule 13 to address Res. 12-01A. The delegate was informed that the use of that standing rule is at the discretion of the chair. President Harrison permitted the delegate to explain his reasons and thanked him for his request.

After introductory comments by Committee Chairman Roger Paavola, Res. 13-02A “To Regularize Status of Licensed Lay Deacons Involved in Word and Sacrament Ministry” (*TB*, pp. 373ff.—Part 2, Sunday issue) was introduced by the committee. During discussion, a motion to end debate was introduced but failed [Yes: 624; No: 431]. Discussion continued until the chair tested the will of the assembly to end debate [Yes: 774; No: 294]. With debate ended, Res. 13-02A was adopted as presented [Yes: 809; No: 277].

Res. 13-04A “To Clarify Colloquy Requirements” (*TB*, pp. 376f.—Part 2, Sunday issue) was introduced by the committee. After immediate discussion of the apparent faulty construction of the resolution’s whereas and resolve paragraphs, the committee determined that the second and third whereas paragraphs and the first resolve paragraph were to be a quotation that should have been indented. This matter resolved, discussion began on the content of the resolution. After additional concerns were expressed, the chair asked whether the assembly would object to referring the resolution back to the committee. There being no objection, Res. 13-04A was referred back to the committee.

Res. 13-03 “To Address Future Church Leadership Needs in Light of Current and Future Challenges” (*TB*, pp. 174f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. During the discussion that followed, friendly amendments were offered to add “and Canada” to the third bullet of the first resolve, and to add a new final bullet to the same resolve: “• To explore the possibility of providing free seminary education.” The chair tested the will of the assembly to close debate [Yes: 973; No: 66]. With debate closed, Res. 13-03 was adopted as changed [Yes: 874; No: 147].

Committee 14: Church and Culture

Committee 14 Chairman Terry Forke brought forward Res. 14-06A “To Encourage Outreach to Muslim Neighbors” (reprinted since it was last discussed as Res. 14-06, the resolution now on page 432 of *Today’s Business*—Tuesday issue). When asked by the chair whether it was ready to proceed with voting on the resolution, the assembly agreed to proceed to vote, and Res. 14-06A was adopted as changed during Session 3 [Yes: 945; No: 61].

Res. 14-02A “To Confess Sanctity of Marriage” (*TB*, p. 430—Tuesday issue) was introduced by the committee. During brief discussion, two amendments were offered and accepted as friendly amendments by the committee: to add the words “and schools” after “universities” in the third resolve; and to add the words “with gentleness and respect” after the word “prophetically” in the final resolve. When the chair asked and the assembly indicated its readiness to vote, Res. 14-02A was adopted as changed [Yes: 1,030; No: 15].

Res. 14-03A “To Respond Compassionately to Challenges to Biblical View of Marriage and Human Sexuality” (*TB*, p. 431—Tuesday issue) was introduced by the committee. During discussion, several suggested amendments were accepted as friendly amendments by the committee: to add the words “Law and” before the word “Gospel” in each occurrence in the third and fourth resolves; to replace the words “struggle with” with the word “experience” in the third resolve; and to relocate “the Lord’s Supper” to follow the mention of “corporate and individual confession and absolution” in the third and fourth resolves. When the chair asked whether the assembly was willing to close debate, he heard no objection, and Res. 14-03A was adopted as changed [Yes: 1,004; No: 25].

Convention Essay—“Upon this Rock: Confess”

[The entire text of the essay by Dr. Daniel Preus, Vice-President of the Synod, is printed elsewhere in the 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.]

Committee 12: Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution

As Committee 12 prepared to continue its presentation of its resolutions, a delegate sought the attention of the chair to ask whether more time might be allowed for debate. When asked by the chair, the assembly supported the manner in which the chair was conducting the convention.

Res. 12-04A “To Expedite the Dispute Resolution and Suspension/Expulsion Processes” (*TB*, pp. 367ff.—Part 2, Sunday issue) was introduced and clarified by the committee. After discussion, a motion to end debate was carried [Yes: 830; No: 213] and Res. 12-04A was adopted [Yes: 648; No: 386].

Res. 12-06 “To Care for Returning Missionaries and Military Chaplains” (*TB*, p. 161—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. The chair asked whether there would be objection from the assembly if he were to proceed to a vote on the resolution after only one speaker. There being no objection, Res. 12-06 was adopted [Yes: 1,046; No: 4].

Res. 12-08 “To Provide Assistance to Lay Reconcilers Serving on Dispute Resolution, Hearing, and Final Hearing Panels” (*TB*, pp. 162f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. Discussion, including a friendly amendment to add the words “through the hearing facilitator” after “resource materials” in both new bylaw paragraphs, followed. The chair asked whether the assembly was willing to close debate. Hearing no objection, Res. 12-08 was adopted by voice vote.

Res. 12-11 “To Establish a Procedure Based on Article XI A 2 for Removal from Office of Officers of the Synod or a District (Other than the Synod or a District President)” (*TB*, pp. 382f.—Part 2, Sunday issue) was introduced by the committee. The committee clarified that the final four paragraphs as printed (marked with double asterisks) were not to be considered a part of the resolution. After discussion, the chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to close debate. Debate was closed [Yes: 861; No: 183] and Res. 12-11 was adopted as clarified [Yes: 928; No: 146].

Committee 2: International Witness

Committee 2 Chairman Donald Fondow began his committee’s presentation with a video emphasizing the growth in missionary activity and in missionary care challenges. Res. 2-03 “To Commend and Support Synod’s International Schools and Their Role in the Church’s Mission” (*TB*, p. 51—preconvention issue) was then introduced by the committee. After discussion and suggestion of friendly amendments to the final resolve paragraph by adding the words “in consultation with the Heads of School of our international schools” after the words “International Mission,” and by replacing the word “day” with “elementary” in subparagraph (1), the chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to vote. With no objection from the assembly, the vote was taken and Res. 2-03 was adopted as changed [Yes: 1,031; No: 12].

Res. 2-04 “To Reaffirm LCMS Military Chaplains’ Right for Free Exercise of Religion in Face of LGBT Inclusion in Armed Forces” (*TB*, pp. 52f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. During discussion, suggested amendments accepted by the committee as friendly amendments added the words “by any member of the Armed Forces, or by any public official, elected or appointed” to the sixth whereas paragraph, and replaced the word “children” with “family members” in the final resolve. Res. 2-04 was adopted s changed [Yes: 1,020; No: 7].

Session 6 Tuesday p.m. July 12, 2016

Responsive Prayer 1

Rev. Dr. John C. Wohlrabe, Jr., LCMS Second Vice-President from the Great Lakes Region, provided the homily for the Order of Responsive Prayer. Chaplain William Weedon served as liturgist, and Cantor Phillip Magness served as organist and accompanist for soloist Monique Nunes.

[The entire text of Dr. Wohlrabe's homily is printed elsewhere in the 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.]

Minutes

Vice-President Herbert Mueller, having assumed the chair, called attention to the minutes provided for Sessions 3 and 4 by the Secretary of the Synod. Secretary Hartwig noted one correction at the bottom of page 5 (there was no discussion after Res. 7-01A was introduced) and informed the assembly that the names of International Lutheran Council members and other guests would be added later when the final version of the minutes is prepared for publication in the *Convention Proceedings*. With no objection, the minutes were declared adopted.

Elections of Boards and Commission

Committee 19 Chairman Greg Walton reported that 1,124 voting delegates were now registered. With no objection from the assembly, the registration report was adopted.

Chairman Walton, in preparation for the elections to follow, reminded the assembly of the rules that will govern the election process. Chaplain William Weedon offered a prayer when the elections were about to begin. The results of the balloting were as follows:

LCMS Board of Directors (At Large)

For Lay Member (6-year term)	Johnny "Crow" Buck	279		
	Ed Everts	482	(declared elected)	
	R. Lee Hagan, Sr.	154		
For Minister of Religion—Ordained (Position 1) (6-year term)	Eric Ini-Obong Ekong	208	238	
	Michael L. Kumm	482	600	(declared elected)
	Jeffery T. Schrank	195	171	
	George W. Lowrey, Jr.	40		
	M. Alan Taylor	62		
For Minister of Religion—Ordained (Position 2) (6-year term)	Eric Ini-Obong Ekong	402	443	546 (declared elected)
	Jeffery T. Schrank	243	187	
	George W. Lowrey, Jr.	31		
	M. Alan Taylor	340	404	478

Board for National Mission

For Individual Member Central Region (3-year term)	Douglas M. Christian	82		
	Kenneth E. Lampe	135		
	Martha J. Milas	536	(declared elected)	
	Carl E. Rockrohr	163		
	Alan R. Stahlecker	87		
For Individual Member East-Southeast Region	Timothy J. Droegemueller	506	(declared elected)	
	Tina G. Jasion	140		

(6-year term)	George E. Murdaugh	50		
	Matthew L. Popovits	139		
	Dien Ashley Taylor	172		
For Individual Member	Peter C. Bender	472	582	(declared elected)
Great Lakes Region	David C. Fleming	202	304	
(3-year term)	Christopher J. Neuendorf	82		
	Randolph H. Raasch	115		
	David P. Stechholz	139	152	
For Individual Member	Aaron J. Asmus	141		
Great Plains Region	Steven C. Briel	533	(declared elected)	
(6-year term)	Russell L. Dewell	69		
	Dennis L. Heiden	147		
	Christopher Maronde	139		
For Individual Member	Anne E. Bopp	194		
West-Southwest Region	Samuel Cosby	124		
(3-year term)	Alfonso O. Espinosa	520	(declared elected)	
	Mark R. Junkans	142		
	Anthony J. Schultz	56		
For Layperson	John Frerking	196	181	
Central Region	Ernest E. Garbe	481	554	(declared elected)
(6-year term)	Frederick P. Guengerich	53		
	Louis W. Kastens, III	57		
	Sharon Rapp	226	290	
For Layperson	Eunice Bailey	120		
East-Southeast Region	Gilbert M. F. Brauch, Jr.	52		
(3-year term)	Julia Habrecht	664	(declared elected)	
	Michael Killian	87		
	Andrew Rullman	87		
For Layperson	Robert Knox	397	421	421
Great Lakes Region	Crysten Sanchez	334	499	595 (declared elected)
(6-year term)	Matthew Voigt	52		
	Joyce M. Voss	70		
	K. Allan Voss	141	101	
For Layperson	Michael Borg	136		
Great Plains Region	Carla M. Claussen	545	(declared elected)	
(3-year term)	Robert E. Dunker	152		
	Thomas R. Halvorson	152		
	Jack H. Hildner	23		
For Layperson	Jeffrey B. Arthurs	125		
West-Southwest Region	Carol A. Hack Broome	391	552	(declared elected)
(6-year term)	James Cullen	127	150	
	Linda Stoterau	288	333	
	Damon P. Tobias	78		

Special Recognition—Special Church Body Guests

Dr. Albert Collver, Director of Church Relations and Assistant to the President, began his introduction of the special church body guests in attendance with the following comments:

“All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before you” (Ps. 22:27).

On the day of Pentecost, the Lord undid the curse brought upon human kind, where their language was confused, and tribalism and racism began. At Pentecost, every person heard the Gospel proclaimed in his own language, and people were made into one family in Christ Jesus. Here in this world, we take great joy in recognizing those who share our view of Scripture and our confession, as well as those who seek it.

The current age provides an unprecedented opportunity for world Lutheranism. Alignments are shifting as is the center of world Christianity. In the first centuries after the Apostles, Christianity centered in Northern Africa and spread to Europe and into Asia. Europe and then North American dominated world Christianity for more than 1,000 years. Today, as the churches of Europe and North America leave behind the truths of the Scriptures, world Christianity is shifting to the Global South, particularly Africa and Asia. Many of these churches are seeking the teaching held by the Missouri Synod and the churches of the International Lutheran Council (ILC). The time is now to engage these churches in partnership and walk beside them as they seek to increase their Lutheran identity and their faithfulness to the Holy Scriptures.

Including our partner churches, the Missouri Synod has relations with about 70 church bodies worldwide in about 55 countries. I would encourage you to take a look at the list of the churches the LCMS has engagement with (see Sunday’s *Today’s Business*, Part 2, beginning on page 216). I would encourage you to take a look at the list of these churches and also read the letters received from more than 40 of these church bodies (Sunday’s *Today’s Business*, Part 1).

At this convention we have present church leaders or representatives from approximately 20 countries (some of whom stand before you). Please allow me to introduce these guests to the LCMS convention:

AFRICA	The Rev. Amos Bolay, Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Liberia
	The Most Rev. Walter E. Obare, Presiding Bishop, Evang. Lutheran Church in Kenya
	The Rev. Benjamin Lemose, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya
	The Most Rev. Christian Ekong, Archbishop, Lutheran Church of Nigeria
	The Rt. Rev. Modise Maragelo, Bishop, Lutheran Church in South Africa
	The Rev. Nathaniel Nyok Bol, South Sudan Evangelical Lutheran Church
ASIA	The Rev. John Henderson, Bishop, Lutheran Church of Australia
	The Rev. S. Rajagambeeram, President, India Evangelical Lutheran Church
	The Rev. J. Samuel, President Emeritus, India Evangelical Lutheran Church
	The Rev. Dr. D. Monikaraj, Principal, Concordia Theological Seminary, India
	The Rev. Tatsuomi Yoshida, Japan Lutheran Church
EUROPE	The Rev. Leif G. Jensen, President, Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark
	The Rt. Rev. Janis Vanags, Archbishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia
	The Rev. Torkild Masvie, Bishop, Lutheran Church in Norway
	The Rev. Adalberto Hiller, President, Portugese Evangelical Lutheran Church
	The Rt. Rev. Arri Kugaapi, Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia
	The Rev. Teemu Haataja, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia
	The Rev. Alexey Streltsov, Siberia Evangelical Lutheran Church
LATIN AMERICA	The Rev. Airtón Scheunemann Schroeder, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil
	The Rev. André Luiz Müller, President, Lutheran Church of Uruguay
NORTH AMERICA	The Rev. Robert Bugbee, President, Lutheran Church—Canada
	The Rev. Dr. Curtis E. Leins, Presiding Pastor, American Assoc. of Lutheran Churches
	The Rev. Glenn Obenberger, Evangelical Lutheran Synod
	The Rev. Ralph Spears, President, The Lutheran Ministerium and Synod—USA
	The Rev. David M. Wendel, North American Lutheran Church
	The Most Rev. Jerome E. Listecki, Archbishop of Milwaukee, Roman Catholic Church
	The Rev. Mark Schroeder, President, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
	The Rev. James Huebner, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Committee 19: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

Balloting continued following the special recognition of international guests.

Commission on Theology and Church Relations

For Minister of Religion—Ordained (6-year term)	Arlo W. Pullmann Paul Robert Sauer	573 (declared elected) 357
For Minister of Religion—Commissioned (6-year term)	Adam S. Francisco Timothy D. Hardy	481 495 (declared elected)
For Layperson (6-year term)	Jack D. Kilcrease, III Charles R. Wiese	717 (declared elected) 252

Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors

For Minister of Religion—Ordained (6-year term)	Michael R. Knox Alvin J. Schmidt	351 637 (declared elected)
For Minister of Religion—Commissioned (6-year term)	Mark L. Bender David O. Berger	713 (declared elected) 268
For Layperson (Position 1) (6-year term)	Paul R. Fowler Elaine Graff Paul W. Lagemann Natalie L. Oleshchuk Gretchen A. Roberts Charles H. Wolfmueller	82 330 597 (declared elected) 117 169 114 225 278 83
For Layperson (Position 2) (6-year term)	Paul R. Fowler Paul W. Lagemann Natalie L. Oleshchuk Gretchen A. Roberts Charles H. Wolfmueller	57 140 231 268 234 463 746 (declared elected) 86
For Layperson (Position 3) (6-year term)	Paul R. Fowler Paul W. Lagemann Natalie L. Oleshchuk Charles H. Wolfmueller	75 231 576 (declared elected) 145

Concordia University System Board of Directors

For Minister of Religion—Ordained (6-year term)	Mark P. Braden Byron Northwick David P. Stechholz	255 453 613 (declared elected) 299 394
For Minister of Religion—Commissioned (6-year term)	Jonathon Giordano Carl J. Moser	622 (declared elected) 361
For Layperson (Position 1) (6-year term)	Ellen R. Lange Gerhard H. Munding, Jr. Mark F. Polzin James Tallmon	478 656 (declared elected) 279 219 87 168 142
For Layperson (Position 2)	Gerhard H. Munding, Jr.	586 (declared elected)

(6-year term)	Mark F. Polzin	145
	James Tallmon	263

Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod Board of Directors

For Minister of Religion—Ordained/Commissioned (3-year term)	David L. Bahn	447		
	Benjamin D. Haupt	520	(declared elected)	
For Layperson (Position 1) (3-year term)	Chris A. Anderson	286	215	
	Susan J. Elsholz	419	633	(declared elected)
	J. Michael Melchert	99		
	Richard T. Peltier	183	157	
For Layperson (Position 2) (3-year term)	Chris A. Anderson	564	(declared elected)	
	J. Michael Melchert	103		
	Richard T. Peltier	335		

Board of Regents—Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

For Minister of Religion—Ordained (6-year term)	William B. Knippa	334		
	Harold L. Senkbeil	681	(declared elected)	
For Layperson (Position 1) (6-year term)	Paul P. Edmon	294	436	537 (declared elected)
	Paul R. Hegland	244	354	472
	Kurt E. Johnson	127		
	Adelaida Schlueter	202	228	
	Glenn Karl Weingarth	132		
For Layperson (Position 2) (6-year term)	Paul R. Hegland	400	490	596 (declared elected)
	Kurt E. Johnson	293	322	400
	Adelaida Schlueter	215	197	
	Glenn Karl Weingarth	132		

Special Recognition—Newly Elected and Outgoing LCMS Board of Directors Members

The chair called to the podium Board of Directors Chairman Michael Kumm to give recognition to the outgoing LCMS Board of Directors members: Rev. Victor Belton and Mr. Warren Puck. He also recognized the newly elected Secretary of the Synod, John Wollenburg Sias, who will serve as an *ex officio* member of the board, and the returning board member present at the convention, Mr. James Carter, Great Lakes Regional lay member, reelected for a second six-year term.

Committee 5: Theology and Church Relations

Committee 5 continued its presentation of its proposed resolutions, introducing Res. 5-08 “To Commend and Encourage Informal Conversations with Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)” (*TB*, pp. 78f.—preconvention issue). Res. 5-08 was adopted without discussion as presented [Yes: 848; No: 17].

Res. 5-09 “To Commend and Encourage Interchurch Conversations with Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) and North American Lutheran Church (NALC)” (*TB*, pp. 79f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. Debate was ended (Yes: 837; No: 24) and Res. 5-09 was adopted as presented [Yes: 901; No: 26].

Res. 5-18 “To Commend the ‘A Theological Statement of Mission for the 21st Century’ for Synodwide Study and Use” (*TB*, p. 378—Monday issue) was introduced by the committee and, after brief discussion, adopted as presented [Yes: 917; No: 37].

Res. 5-10 “To Commend and Encourage Faithful Teaching of Article on Which Church Stands or Falls” (*TB*, pp. 80f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee and adopted as presented [Yes: 933; No: 25].

Res. 5-11A “To Protect Christian Consciences and Address Conscription of Women” (*TB*, pp. 352ff.—Monday issue) was introduced by the committee after striking out the third resolve paragraph. Debate was ended by voice and show of hands. Res. 5-11A was then adopted as changed [Yes: 946; No: 89].

Res. 5-12 “To Commend and Encourage Use of Luther’s Catechisms” (*TB*, pp. 83f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. A motion to end debate carried [Yes: 813; No: 130] and Res. 5-12 was adopted as presented [Yes: 928; No: 33].

Res. 5-13 “To Reaffirm Scriptural Teaching re Royal Priesthood and Office of Public Ministry” (*TB*, pp. 84f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. During brief discussion, the committee agreed to the insertion in the second-last resolve of the word “reading” before the word “study.” A motion to end debate was introduced and carried [Yes: 859; No: 127] and Res. 5-13 was carried [Yes: 867; No: 86].

Res. 5-14 “To Reaffirm Biblical Teaching on Man and Woman in the Church” (*TB*, pp. 85f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee after it made a change in the second-last resolve by replacing the word “endorsed” with “commended.” During debate, the committee accepted a friendly amendment to add the parenthetical phrase “(i.e., Office of the Public Ministry)” at the end of the second-last resolve’s paragraph (1). A motion also was introduced to remove paragraph (2) of the second-last resolve as printed on page 384 of Monday’s issue of *Today’s Business*. After discussion of the proposed amendment, a motion to end debate was carried [Yes: 708; No: 291] and the amendment failed [Yes: 358; No: 642]. Upon returning to discussion of the resolution, a motion to end debate was carried [Yes: 683; No: 321] and Res. 5-14 was adopted as changed [Yes: 683; No: 329].

Res. 5-15 “To Address Questions re the Sacrament of the Altar” (*TB*, pp. 86f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee with one change in the first resolve, adding the parenthetical phrase “(see 5th whereas paragraph)” after the words “noted above.” A motion to end debate was introduced and carried [Yes: 831; No: 136] and Res. 5-15 was adopted as changed [Yes: 821; No: 167].

Committee 16: Family, Youth, and Young Adults

With Vice-President Nabil Nour chairing the meeting, New England District President Timothy Yeadon introduced the work of his committee. The committee introduced Res. 16-01 “To Celebrate Ministry of Rev. Dr. Terry K. Dittmer” (*TB*, p. 190—preconvention issue). Res. 16-01 was adopted without discussion [Yes: 889; No: 36].

Res. 16-02A “To Make Strengthening Lutheran Families a Mission Priority” (*TB*, p. 379—Part 2, Sunday issue) was introduced by the committee. After discussion, a motion to end debate carried [Yes: 898; No: 40] and Res. 16-02A was adopted [Yes: 892; No: 47].

Res. 16-03 “To Encourage Christian Care and Discipling of Fathers” (*TB*, p. 191—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. A motion to amend the resolution by striking “Lutheran” in the last line of the final resolve was moved and seconded, but by a vote of 647 to 250, the convention determined not to consider the amendment. After debate was ended [Yes: 905; No: 26], Res. 16-03 was adopted as presented [Yes: 937; No: 21].

Res. 16-04 “To Increase Engagement of Lutheran Young Adults in Ministry and Service Work of LCMS” (*TB*, p. 192—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. After discussion, a motion to end debate was carried [Yes: 910; No: 19], and by a show of hands, Res. 16-04 was adopted as presented.

Res. 16-06 “To Encourage CTCR and Scouting Task Force to Move Quickly in Providing Guidance Concerning Scouting” (*TB*, p. 387—Part 2, Sunday issue) was introduced by the committee and immediately adopted [Yes: 746; No: 35].

Res. 16-05 “To Increase Our Efforts to Retain College-Age Youth” (*TB*, pp. 192f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. After debate was closed by voice vote, Res. 16-05 was adopted as presented, also by voice vote.

Close of Day

Chaplain William Weedon led the convention in a brief devotion to close the session, with Cantor Phillip Magness accompanying the hymn with the organ.

Session 7 Wednesday a.m., July 13, 2016

Matins

Rev. Allan Buss, Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Belvidere, Illinois, preached the homily. Chaplain William Weedon served as liturgist, and Cantor Phillip Magness assisted with organ and piano.

[The entire text of Rev. Buss' homily is printed elsewhere in the 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.]

Greeting—Lutheran Hour Ministries

Kurt Buchholz, President and CEO of Lutheran Hour Ministries, began his greeting with a video reminding the assembly of the important role of the priesthood of all believers in the life of the church, often during its most difficult moments. Lutheran Hour Ministries this year celebrates its 100th Anniversary, which began with a meeting in Milwaukee. He was pleased to report that Lutheran Hour Ministries continues to reach new areas of the earth with its communications ministries, now heavily involving the Internet, Lutheran Hour Ministry's newest mission field.

Greeting—Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Lutheran Women's Missionary League President Patti Ross brought greetings and reminded the assembly that the LWML is an official auxiliary of the Synod, determined to be the best women's organization of any church body, utilizing mission inspiration, mission education, mission service, and financial grants to carry out its mission service. The LWML's current mission goal on the national level is \$2 million, with an additional \$5.5 million its combined goal on the district level. Next year will be the 75th Anniversary of the women's meeting in Chicago that began the LWML organization, to be celebrated next June in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Committee 12: Ecclesiastical Supervision & Dispute Resolution

As the chair welcomed the return of Committee 12, a delegate offered a motion to bring back Res. 16-06 "To Encourage CTCR and Scouting Task Force to Move Quickly in Providing Guidance Concerning Scouting" (*TB*, p. 387—Part 2, Sunday issue). After brief discussion, a motion was introduced to end debate, which was carried by a show of hands. In the vote that followed, the motion to bring back Res. 16-06 failed [Yes: 246; No: 750].

Committee 12 Chairman John Wille brought forward Res. 12-14 "Regarding the Right of an Accuser to Appeal When a District President Fails to Act or Declines to Suspend" (*TB*, p. 467—Wednesday issue), intended to take the place of Res. 12-01A already before the convention. President Harrison explained the purpose of this new resolution and then called on Council of Presidents Chairman Kenneth Hennings to assure the assembly of the council's unanimous support. A proposed amendment to insert "or President of the Synod" after "District President" in the title was received by the committee as a friendly amendment. After brief debate, the chair called for a show of hands to determine whether to end debate. Debate was ended, and Res. 12-14 was adopted as changed [Yes: 996; No: 67].

The committee introduced a motion to postpone indefinitely any action on Res. 12-01A. With no objection from the assembly to the motion, Res. 12-01A was postponed indefinitely. President Harrison then called on Northwest District President Paul Linnemann to speak to the convention on matters that prompted the convention action.

Res. 12-02A "To Encourage Calling Church Workers on Candidate Status" (*TB*, pp. 366f.—Part 2, Sunday issue) was introduced by the committee. During the pro-con discussion that followed, the chair asked for any objection to voting on the resolution without further discussion. The chair hearing no objection, the convention adopted Res. 12-02A as presented [Yes: 1,033; No: 14].

Res. 12-03 “To Amend the Bylaws on Candidate Status” (*TB*, p. 157f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. The chair hearing no objection to voting immediately on the resolution, Res. 12-03 was adopted as presented [Yes: 990; No: 35].

Res. 12-09 “To Update and Amend Dispute Resolution Process” (*TB*, pp. 163ff.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. With no objection raised to immediately voting on the resolution, Res. 12-09 was adopted as presented [Yes: 1,010; No: 27].

Committee 9: Finance

Committee 9 Chairman Daniel May, President of the Indiana District, introduced the work of his committee and thanked its members for their service. The committee introduced Res. 9-01A “To Give Thanks to God for Increase in Sunday Offerings and Encourage Walking Together as Synod” (*TB*, pp. 367f.—Monday issue). Without discussion and with no objection from the assembly, the convention voted immediately and Res. 9-01A was adopted [Yes: 908; No: 39].

Res. 9-02A “To Assure Uniformity of Relationship and Asset Disposition Language in Governing Documents of Corporate Agencies of the Synod” (*TB*, pp. 368f.—Monday issue) was introduced by the committee. Without objection to voting on the resolution immediately, the convention adopted Res. 9-02A as presented [Yes: 910; No: 24].

Res. 9-03A “To Give Thanks and Encourage Participation in Funding of Synod Mission Work” (*TB*, pp. 369ff.—Monday issue) was introduced by the committee. Without objection to voting immediately on the resolution, Res. 9-03A was adopted as presented [Yes: 936; No: 35].

Res. 9-04A “To Improve Disclosures Related to Financial Gifts from God’s Stewards for Special Appeals” (*TB*, pp. 372f.—Monday issue) was introduced by the committee. Without objection from the assembly, the convention voted immediately by voice vote to adopt Res. 9-04A as presented.

Res. 9-05 “To Commend Work of LCMS Foundation” (*TB*, pp. 120f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. Without objection from the assembly, the convention voted immediately on the resolution, and Res. 9-05 was adopted by voice vote as presented. David Fiedler, President of the LCMS Foundation briefly addressed the convention.

Convention Essay—“Upon This Rock: Rejoice”

[The essayist Dr. Berhanu Ofgaa serves as the General Secretary of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY). The entire text of his essay is printed elsewhere in the 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.]

Special Recognition—LCMS Presidents Emeriti

The convention welcomed and applauded the service of the former LCMS Presidents present for the convention, Dr. Robert Kuhn and Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, before joining in singing the Common Doxology.

Committee 8: Parochial Schools

As Committee 8 came forward, a delegate brought forward the resolution printed in Tuesday’s *Today’s Business*, pp. 438f., “To Preserve the Authority and Clarity of the New Testament Scriptures.” After his motion was seconded and during discussion, a motion was introduced to refer this resolution to the President of the Synod. A motion to end debate was introduced and carried [Yes: 823; No: 181] and the motion to refer was carried [Yes: 878; No: 137].

Committee 8 Chairman Dean Nadasdy, Minnesota South District President, introduced the work of his committee. Res. 8-01A “To Encourage and Strengthen the Lutheran Ethos of our LCMS Early Childhood Centers, Elementary Schools, and High Schools” (*TB*, pp. 351f.—Part 2, Sunday issue) was then introduced by the committee. During the discussion that followed, the words “rostered and non-rostered” were added at the beginning of the third-last

whereas paragraph, and the words “or Christian teachers in the LCMS teacher colloquy program” were added after “teachers” in #5 of the first resolve, and the words “a school by eagerly serving” were added after the word “supports” and before “the school” in #6—all as friendly amendments. The chair asked for and received the assembly’s support by voice vote to proceed with the vote on the resolution. Res. 8-01A was adopted as changed, also by voice vote.

Res. 8-02 “To Recruit and Equip Lutheran Administrators for Service in Early Childhood Centers and Schools” (*TB*, pp. 112f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. Without objection from the assembly to proceeding with the vote on the resolution immediately, Res. 8-02 was adopted as presented by voice vote.

Res. 8-03A “To Support the Quality and Sustainability of Lutheran Schools through Work of Blue Ribbon Committee on Lutheran Schools” (*TB*, pp. 353f.—Part 2, Sunday issue) was introduced by the committee. Without objection from the floor to proceeding to vote immediately, Res. 8-03A was adopted as presented by voice vote.

Res. 8-04 “To Preserve the Religious Freedom of Our Parochial Schools” (*TB*, p. 114—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. Debate was closed by voice vote, and Res. 8-04 was adopted as presented, also by voice vote.

Committee 10: Stewardship: Funding the Mission

Committee 10 Chairman Dwayne Lueck, President of the North Wisconsin District, introduced the work of his committee. Res. 10-01 “To Recognize the Lutheran Church Extension Fund” (*TB*, p. 123—preconvention issue) was presented on behalf of the committee by LCEF President Rich Robertson, who also noted that LCEF had its beginning at a Milwaukee convention. After the resolution was formally introduced, the assembly agreed by voice vote and without objection to proceed directly to a vote on the resolution. Res. 10-01 was adopted as presented, also by voice vote.

Res. 10-02 “To Commend Startup of the Lutheran Federal Credit Union and Promote its Ongoing Work” (*TB*, p. 124—preconvention issue) was introduced on behalf of the committee by credit union representative Tom Buuck. The assembly agreed to proceed to vote without discussion, and by voice vote adopted Res. 10-02 as presented.

Res. 10-03 “To Encourage Individuals, Congregations, and Districts in Cheerful and Voluntary Giving” (*TB*, pp. 124f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. The assembly agreed by voice vote to proceed to a vote on the resolution without discussion, and by voice vote Res. 10-03 was adopted as presented.

Res. 10-04 “To Encourage Faithful Teaching of Stewardship to People in Their Daily Vocations” (*TB*, pp. 125f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. The assembly agreed by voice vote to proceed to a vote on the resolution without discussion, and by voice vote Res. 10-04 was adopted as presented.

Res. 10-05 “To Encourage Greater Use of LCMS Communication Resources” (*TB*, p. 126—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. The assembly agreed by voice vote to proceed to vote on the resolution without discussion, and by voice vote Res. 10-05 was adopted as presented.

Res. 10-06 “To Promote the Use of Synod Stewardship Services” (*TB*, p. 127—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. The assembly agreed by voice vote to proceed to a vote on the resolution without discussion, and by voice vote Res. 10-06 was adopted as presented.

Committee 6: Seminaries

Committee 6 Chairman James Baneck continued his presentation of the work of his committee. Res. 6-01 “To Create a Pastoral Formation Committee” (*TB*, pp. 89f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. The assembly agreed by voice vote to proceed to a vote on the resolution without discussion, and by voice vote Res. 6-01 was adopted as presented.

Res. 6-03 “To Affirm the Master of Divinity Route at the Synod’s Seminaries,” Res. 6-04 “To encourage and Support the Global Seminary Initiative (GSI),” Res. 6-05 “To Encourage Movement Toward an Alternative to Federal Student Loans for Seminarians,” and Res. 6-06 “To Encourage Use of Existing Training Programs for

Pastoral Ministry in Immigrant and Challenging Ministry Settings” (*TB*, pp. 93ff.—preconvention issue) were, without objection from the assembly, bundled together and introduced by the committee as a single proposed action. After discussion, the assembly failed to end debate [Yes: 609; No: 345], but after brief additional discussion a motion to end debate was carried [Yes: 647; No: 297] and Res. 6-03, Res. 6-04, Res. 6-05, and Res. 6-06 were adopted as presented in a single action by hand vote.

Following the completion of the committee’s work, Dr. Berhanu Ofgaa, General Secretary of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, offered comments regarding Res. 6-04 from the perspective of his church body, expressing appreciation to the Synod for the Global Seminary Initiative program.

Session 8 Wednesday p.m. July 13, 2016

Service of Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

The Preacher for the Service of Commemoration was Rev. Dr. John Wille, President of the South Wisconsin District. Chaplain William Weedon served as liturgist. Cantor Phillip Magness, Monique Nunes, and a music ensemble (Angela Christopherson, Matthew Janssen, Eric Carlson, Allison Schweitzer, Paul Tuskowski, Paul Walter, and Rachel Paul) enhanced the service.

[The entire text of Dr. Wille’s homily is printed elsewhere in the 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.]

Minutes

Vice-President Herbert Mueller called attention to the minutes for Sessions 5 and 6 as printed and distributed. After the Secretary of the Synod noted several changes, the minutes were approved.

Committee 19: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

Committee 19 continued the balloting for remaining board positions, with the following results:

Board of Regents—Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

For Minister of Religion—Ordained (6-year term)	Ronald M. Garwood Gerhard C. Michael, Jr.	635 (declared elected) 332	
For Layperson (Position 1) (6-year term)	Michael D. Lange Leo S. Mackay, Jr. Bradd Stucky Beverly Yahnke	164 528 (declared elected) 110 196	
For Layperson (Position 2) (6-year term)	Michael D. Lange Bradd Stucky Beverly Yahnke	188 393 420	474 534 (declared elected)

Board for International Mission

For Minister of Religion—Commissioned/Ordained Central Region (6-year term)	Peter N. Kirby David A. Mommens Carl E. Rockrohr John F. Temple	177 102 209 454	141 243 621 (elected)
For Minister of Religion—Commissioned/Ordained East-Southeast Region (3-year term)	Juan A. Gonzalez Tina G. Jasion Gerhard C. Michael, Jr. Johnson E. Rethinasamy	279 93 111 89	297 114

	Roberto E. Rojas, Jr.	401	598	(elected)
For Minister of Religion—Commissioned/Ordained	Jesse A. Burns	87		
Great Lakes Region	Jeffrey W. Pautz	137		
(6-year term)	Randolph H. Raasch	150		
	Edward A. Sikora, Sr.	77		
	David P. Stechholz	531		(declared elected)
For Minister of Religion—Commissioned/Ordained	Bruce H. Lesemann	123	90	
Great Plains Region	Fungchatou T. Lo	328	419	489
(3-year term)	Gerald A. Paul	50		
	Bernhard M. Seter	430	504	541 (elected)
	Kenneth H. Zoeller	69		
For Minister of Religion—Commissioned/Ordained	Ronald D. Burcham	120		
West-Southwest Region	Samuel Cosby	492		(declared elected)
(6-year term)	Jonathan J. Coyne	64		
	Michael E. Gibson	203		
	Jeffrey E. Shearier	98		
For Layperson	Kristine Bruss	640		(declared elected)
Central Region	Marguerite Christman	79		
(3-year term)	Jerry M. Frese	111		
	Eric Gates	116		
	Dean Graumann	45		
For Layperson	Kermit W. Almstedt	223		
East-Southeast Region	Michael Killian	105		
(6-year term)	Stuart Nichols	62		
	Clarence E. Riley, Jr.	47		
	James Wolf	539		(declared elected)
For Layperson	Robert Knox	76		
Great Lakes Region	George Neuberger, Jr.	109		
(3-year term)	Mary A. Rinda	186		
	Matthew Voigt	45		
	K. Allan Voss	567		(declared elected)
For Layperson	Krista Erickson	367	456	
Great Plains Region	Michael Onnen	64	48	
(6-year term)	Ron Rathe	43		
	Kirk Rosin	42		
	Robert K. Van Gundy	473	514	(elected)
For Layperson	Jeffrey B. Arthurs	36		
West-Southwest Region	Jim Cullen	41		
(3-year term)	Terrence Lung	721		(declared elected)
	Lois Peacock	115		
	Ray Tacquard, Jr.	101		

Board of Regents—Concordia College Alabama

For Minister of Religion—Ordained	Carl L. Beckwith	536	(declared elected)
(3-year term)	Douglas Shamburger	452	
For Minister of Religion—Commissioned	Deborah L. Rockrohr	670	(declared elected)
(3-year term)	Lawrence E. Sohn	301	

For Layperson (Position 1) (3-year term)	Carol Gross Schmidt James Tallmon David C. Thomas	365 391 244	418 586 (declared elected)
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For Layperson (Position 2) (3-year term)	Carol Gross Schmidt David C. Thomas	669 (declared elected) 317
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Board of Regents—Concordia College New York

For Minister of Religion—Ordained (3-year term)	Jon T. Diefenthaler Jon M. Ellingworth	473 530 (declared elected)
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For Minister of Religion—Commissioned (3-year term)	Mary E. Hilgendorf Ross E. Stueber	470 514 (declared elected)
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For Layperson (Position 1) (3-year term)	James T. Jahnke David M. Wolf	612 (declared elected) 377
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For Layperson (Position 2) (3-year term)	David M. Wolf	905 (declared elected)
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Omnibus Resolution B

The chair called attention to Omnibus Resolution B (*TB*, p. 40—preconvention issue) and asked for a motion and second for its adoption. When the chair asked whether there would be objection to going directly to a vote, there was objection. He therefore asked the assembly whether it was ready to vote on the resolution and it voted to do so [Yes: 699; No: 249]. The motion to adopt Omnibus Resolution B as printed was carried [Yes: 901; No: 72].

Omnibus Resolution C

The chair called attention to Omnibus Resolution C (*TB*, p. 41—preconvention issue). After the resolution was moved and seconded, it was noted that Ov. 7-25 had been withdrawn from this resolution and had already been acted upon by the convention. The motion to adopt Omnibus Resolution C with Ov. 7-25 deleted was carried by voice vote.

Committee 19: Registration, Credentials, and Elections

Committee 19 completed the balloting for board positions, with the following results:

Board of Regents—Concordia University Chicago

For Minister of Religion—Ordained (3-year term)	Roger B. Gallup Martin E. Keller	610 (declared elected) 283
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For Minister of Religion—Commissioned (3-year term)	Carl J. Moser Mark P. Muehl	251 693 (declared elected)
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For Layperson (Position 1) (3-year term)	Ronald W. Dunbar Debra Grime Mark O. Stern	186 519 (declared elected) 269
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For Layperson (Position 2) (3-year term)	Ronald W. Dunbar Mark O. Stern	258 700 (declared elected)
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Board of Regents—Concordia University Irvine

For Minister of Religion—Ordained	Scott C. Klemsz	526 (declared elected)
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<i>(3-year term)</i>	Michael A. Morehouse	447	
For Minister of Religion—Commissioned <i>(3-year term)</i>	Jeffrey S. Beavers Gary G. Gable	731 244	(declared elected)
For Layperson (Position 1) <i>(3-year term)</i>	Richard P. Fielitz, Jr. Peter K. S. Lee Sandra J. Ostapowich	277 310 392	330 650 (declared elected)
For Layperson (Position 2) <i>(3-year term)</i>	Richard P. Fielitz, Jr. Peter K. S. Lee	455 533	(declared elected)

Board of Regents—Concordia University Nebraska

For Minister of Religion—Ordained <i>(3-year term)</i>	Keith H. Grimm Ray G. Mirly Timothy J. Rynearson James D. Woelmer	351 129 113 383	507 (declared elected) 483
For Minister of Religion—Commissioned <i>(3-year term)</i>	Robert L. Cooksey E. David Dolak	634 255	(declared elected)
For Layperson (Position 1) <i>(3-year term)</i>	Timothy Hu Jonathan M. Jank Jill M. Johnson Marla A. Johnson Glenn E. Van Velson	206 151 482 72 64	170 132 683 (declared elected)
For Layperson (Position 2) <i>(3-year term)</i>	Timothy Hu Glenn E. Van Velson	697 300	(declared elected)

Board of Regents—Concordia University Portland

For Minister of Religion—Ordained <i>(3-year term)</i>	John E. Rethinsasamy Gregory N. Todd	381 594	(declared elected)
For Minister of Religion—Commissioned <i>(3-year term)</i>	Keith E. Brosz Gary G. Gable	623 319	(declared elected)
For Layperson (Position 1) <i>(3-year term)</i>	Michael P. Borg August C. Schwark Andrew T. White	496 176 295	(declared elected)
For Layperson (Position 2) <i>(3-year term)</i>	August C. Schwark Andrew T. White	529 419	(declared elected)

Board of Regents—Concordia University St. Paul

For Minister of Religion—Ordained <i>(3-year term)</i>	Larry J. Griffin David A. Kind	300 648	(declared elected)
For Minister of Religion—Commissioned <i>(3-year term)</i>	Mark J. L'Heureux Carl J. Schoenbeck	614 336	(declared elected)
For Layperson (Position 1) <i>(3-year term)</i>	Ronald W. Dunbar Willis Robert Myers Marvin H. Schulteis Amy S. Wenthe	151 311 108 384	98 331 542 (declared elected)

For Layperson (Position 2) (3-year term)	Ronald W. Dunbar Willis Robert Myers Marvin H. Schulteis	287 519 (declared elected) 166
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Board of Regents—Concordia University Texas

For Minister of Religion—Ordained (3-year term)	R. Richard Armstrong Nathaniel W. Hill Geoffrey Brent McGuire M. Alan Taylor	245 313 101 283	199 413 352	543 (declared elected) 414
For Minister of Religion—Commissioned (3-year term)	Stephen F. Eggold Mary Beth Gaertner	441 473 (declared elected)		
For Layperson (Position 1) (3-year term)	Mark K. De Young Peter H. Hames Noreen L. Linke	547 (declared elected) 108 283		
For Layperson (Position 2) (3-year term)	Peter H. Hames Noreen L. Linke	216 740 (declared elected)		

Board of Regents—Concordia University Wisconsin

For Minister of Religion—Ordained (3-year term)	Allan R. Buss David C. Fleming	433 531 (declared elected)		
For Minister of Religion—Commissioned (3-year term)	Lynnette Fredericksen	878 (declared elected)		
For Layperson (Position 1) (3-year term)	Kenneth Bowman Deborah J. Davidson Matthew W. Hurtienne Janice M. Wendorf	450 173 125 217	627 (declared elected) 140 222	
For Layperson (Position 2) (3-year term)	Deborah J. Davidson Matthew W. Hurtienne Janice M. Wendorf	428 127 411	539 (declared elected) 429	

Committee 13: Routes to Ministry

Res. 13-04B “To Clarify Colloquy Requirements” (*TB*, p. 467f.—Wednesday issue) had been referred back to the committee (see Session 5 minutes, Res. 13-04A). The committee noted that the bylaws governing colloquy are accompanied by a policy manual that contains much of what had once been in the bylaws, addressing the concerns previously raised during discussion of Res. 13-04A. Debate was ended [Yes: 738; No: 101] and Res. 13-04B was adopted by voice vote as presented.

The committee completed its work by calling attention to Res. 13-05 (*TB*, p. 176—preconvention issue), noting that its one overture, Ov. 13-48, had already been addressed by an earlier convention action, making it unnecessary to bring Res. 13-05 forward for convention action.

Committee 12: Ecclesiastical Supervision and Dispute Resolution

As Committee 12 was preparing to present its proposed resolutions, a delegate sought the attention of the chair and requested that the convention address Res. 3-04 “To Create Task Force for Study of Issues Relating to Procreation, Fertility, and Care for Unborn” (*TB*, p. 59—preconvention issue), which had been bypassed earlier. The assembly

voted to consider Res. 3-04 [Yes: 879; No: 79] and the chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to vote. Hearing no objection, he called for the vote and Res. 3-04 was adopted as printed [Yes: 924; No: 41].

Res. 12-05A “To Expand Composition of Hearing Panels (2.14, 2.15, 2.17)” (*TB*, pp. 374ff.—Monday issue) was introduced by the committee. The chair hearing no objection to calling the vote, Res. 12-05A was adopted as presented [Yes: 977; No: 40].

Res. 12-07A “To Clarify Definition of Dissent” (*TB*, pp. 370f.—Part 2, Sunday issue) was introduced and explained by the committee. After discussion by the assembly, a motion to end debate was introduced and carried [Yes: 680; No: 273] and Res. 12-07A was adopted as presented [Yes: 684; No: 244].

Committee 11: Structure and Administration

Committee 11 received assistance from Commission on Constitutional Matters Chairman George Gude, who provided brief summaries for the assembly of the following resolutions which the committee wished to bundle into a single action by the convention as “housekeeping matters.”:

- Res. 11-04B “To Change Bylaws re Certification and Verification of District Convention Delegates” (*TB*, p. 429—Tuesday issue)
- Res. 11-08A “District Administration and Electoral Circuit Requirements” (*TB*, pp. 357ff.—Part 2, Sunday issue)
- Res. 11-11 “To Clarify Convention Matters” (*TB*, pp. 143f.—preconvention issue)
- Res. 11-12 “To Clarify Synod Administration Matters” (*TB*, pp. 144ff.—preconvention issue)
- Res. 11-13 “To Update Bylaw 2.12.1.4 to Include Mention of Office of National Mission” (*TB*, pp. 149f.—preconvention issue)
- Res. 11-15A “To Amend Bylaw re Responsibilities of Commission on Constitutional Matters” (*TB*, pp. 373f.—Monday issue)
- Res. 11-17 “To Establish Representation at Synod Conventions for the Boards for National and International Mission” (*TB*, pp. 380f.—Part 2, Sunday issue)
- Res. 11-20 “To Clarify and Confirm the Distinction Between Synod and Corporate Synod and to Provide Consistency for the Meaning of ‘Property of the Synod’ Regarding Definition of Property of the Synod” (*TB*, pp. 383f.—Monday issue)

Following the explanations provided, the chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to vote. Hearing no objection, he called for the vote and the bundled resolution action that included Res. 11-04B, Res. 11-08A, Res. 11-11, Res. 11-12, Res. 11-13, Res. 11-15A, Res. 11-17, and Res. 11-20 was adopted as presented [Yes: 923; No: 32].

Res. 11-09 “To Allow Voting Privilege for Assistant Pastors” (*TB*, pp. 141f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee and explained to the assembly. Hearing no objection, the chair called for the vote and Res. 11-09 was adopted as presented [Yes: 921; No: 58].

Res. 11-18 “To Clarify and Confirm the Distinction Between Synod and Corporate Synod and to Provide Consistency for the Meaning of ‘Property of the Synod’ Regarding Article IV Powers” (*TB*, pp. 380f.—Monday issue) was introduced by the committee. The chair called for a vote to close debate [Yes: 913; No: 46]. He then called for a voice vote on the resolution and declared Res. 11-18 adopted as presented without opposing vote.

Res. 11-19 “To Clarify and Confirm the Distinction between Synod and Corporate Synod and to Provide Consistency for the Meaning of ‘Property of the Synod’ Regarding Article XI” (*TB*, pp. 381ff.—Monday issue) was introduced and explained, its wording provided by legal counsel. The assembly agreed without objection to vote on the resolution, and Res. 11-19 was adopted as presented [Yes: 903; No: 66].

Res. 11-14 “To Clarify Function of Committee for Convention Nominations in Interim between Issuing Final Report and Convention” (*TB*, p. 150—preconvention issue) was introduced and explained. There was no opposition to an immediate vote, and Res. 11-14 was adopted as presented [Yes: 915; No: 22].

Res. 11-10 “To Authorize Review of Synod Nominations/Elections Processes” (*TB*, pp. 142f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee with explanation. After brief discussion, Res. 11-10 was adopted as presented [Yes: 922; No: 46].

Res. 11-05 “To Revise and Enhance Nomination and Election Process for Regional Board Members” (*TB*, pp. 130ff.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. A motion was introduced to amend the resolution by striking the sentence “Nominations may be received from persons or parties outside the region” from the wording of proposed Bylaw 3.12.2.8 (b). After discussion, debate was closed on the amendment [Yes: 859; No: 83], and in the vote on the amendment that followed, the amendment failed to be carried [Yes: 435; No: 540]. After discussion continued, the chair asked the assembly whether it was prepared to vote on the resolution. Hearing no objection, he called for the vote and Res. 11-05 was adopted without amendment [Yes: 731; No: 208].

Res. 11-07A “To Amend Constitution to Grant Lay Vote/Voice to Every Congregation (*TB*, pp. 355ff.—Part 2, Sunday issue) was introduced by the committee. After discussion, a motion was introduced to end debate, which carried [Yes: 773; No: 176]. In the vote that followed, Res. 11-07A failed to receive the required two-thirds vote [Yes: 635; No: 321] and was not adopted.

Committee 17: Preaching and Church Worker Continuing Education

Committee Chairman Brian Saunders, President of Iowa District East, introduced the work of his committee. Res. 17-03 “To Endorse ‘Preach the Word Project’ as Celebration of 500th Anniversary of Reformation” (pp. 195f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. Without objection to proceeding with the vote, Res. 17-03 was adopted as presented [Yes: 854; No: 55].

Res. 17-04 “To Encourage Regular Sermon Evaluation by District Presidents and Circuit Visitors” (*TB*, pp. 196f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. During the discussion that followed, a motion was introduced to amend the resolution by striking the final resolve. A motion to close debate on the amendment was introduced and carried [Yes: 817; No: 86] and the amendment was defeated [Yes: 263; No: 669]. When attention returned to the resolution itself, no objection was raised to voting on the resolution, which was then adopted without amendment [Yes: 705; No: 228].

Committee 17 concluded its business by bundling Res. 17-01 “To Enhance Clergy Continuing Education” and Res. 17-02 “To Encourage Participation in Continuing Theological Education by Ministers of Religion—Commissioned and Lay Workers” (*TB*, pp. 194f.—preconvention issue). Via a friendly amendment, the second resolve of Res. 17-01 was changed to read, “That pastors be encouraged to participate....” The chair asked and the assembly agreed that it was ready to vote on the bundled resolutions [Yes: 814; No: 102]. Resolutions 17-01 and 17-02 were adopted with the single change to Res. 17-01 [Yes: 802; No: 123].

Closing Worship

Chaplain William Weedon conducted the closing worship, with Cantor Phillip Magness and an instrumental ensemble (Matthew Janssen, Eric Carlson, Allison Schweitzer, Paul Tuskowski, Paul Walter, and Rachel Paul) providing musical accompaniment for the service.

Session 9 Thursday, July 14, 2016

Matins

The final session of the 66th Regular Convention began with the Order of Matins. Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray, Fourth Vice-President and West-Southwest Regional Vice-President preached the homily. Chaplain William Weedon served as liturgist and Cantor Phillip Magness as organist, with Matthew Janssen (trumpet) and Dan and Jennifer Torkelson (singers) providing special music.

[The text of Dr. Murray’s homily is printed elsewhere in these 2016 *Convention Proceedings*.]

Minutes

President Matthew Harrison called attention to the minutes for Wednesday, Sessions 7 and 8, as printed and distributed. After the Secretary of the Synod called attention to corrections in the fourth paragraph of the first page, changing “Res. 12-06” to “Res. 16-06,” the minutes were approved.

New Resolution

Following approval of the minutes, several voting delegates sought the attention of the chair and received permission to present the new resolution printed on page 497 of the Thursday issue of *Today’s Business*, “To Amend Bylaw 3.3.3,” which was read as follows:

To Amend Bylaw 3.3.3

WHEREAS, Bylaw 3.3.3 states, “The Secretary shall perform all the customary duties of a corporate secretary and shall serve as a voting member and the secretary of the Board of Directors of the Synod”; and

WHEREAS, The Rev. Dr. Hartwig has faithfully served as the Secretary of the Synod for the last 18 years, during four different administrations; and

WHEREAS, The work of the Secretary is tedious and often thankless and yet so very necessary for the smooth operation of our Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That the title of this resolution be changed to read: “To Give Thanks to God for the Faithful Service of Rev. Dr. Raymond Hartwig”; and be it further

Resolved, That the Synod in convention rise in thanksgiving for Dr. Hartwig and his faithful service to Christ in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS); and be it finally

Resolved, That the chaplain lead the assembly in a prayer of thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for providing such a man for service in the LCMS.

Submitted on behalf of a grateful Synod by:
Reverends Brian Noack, Ryan Wendt, and Philip Zielinski
Pastoral delegates, Atlantic, Montana, and Ohio Districts

The resolution received a standing vote of approval, following which Chaplain William Weedon led the assembly in prayer.

Committee 18: Worker Wellness

Committee 18 Chairman David Maier, President of the Michigan District, called the convention’s attention to Res. 18-01 “To Commend Work of Concordia Plan Services and Its President and CEO James Sanft” (*TB*, p. 198—preconvention issue). After its formal introduction by the committee and without discussion, Res. 18-01 was adopted as presented [Yes: 887; No: 24]. The assembly rose to sing the Common Doxology, after which James Sanft briefly addressed the assembly.

Res. 18-02A “To Task the Board for National Mission to Develop Policies for Assessing Worker Wellness and Making Recommendations for Worker Care” (*TB*, p. 469—Wednesday issue) was introduced by the committee. With no objection from the assembly, the chair called for the vote and Res. 18-02A was adopted as presented [Yes: 898; No: 14].

Res. 18-03A “To Address Indebtedness of Church Work Professionals” (*TB*, p. 470—Wednesday issue) was formally introduced by the committee. During brief discussion, an amendment was proposed to add “and current church workers” at the end of the final resolve paragraph. The committee accepted the change as a friendly amendment. Without further discussion, Res. 18-03A was adopted as changed [Yes: 887; No: 14].

As the committee prepared to introduce its next proposed resolution, a voting delegate made a motion to amend the Special Standing Rules of the convention by adding the rule that “no friendly amendments be offered from the floor of the convention.” The motion seconded, the chair put the proposed amendment to a vote by the assembly and the motion failed [Yes: 413; No: 505].

Res. 18-04 “To Encourage Congregations, Ministries, and Church Workers to Develop an Intentional Wellness Care Plan” (*TB*, pp. 200f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. With no objection from the assembly, it proceeded to vote on the resolution without discussion. Res. 18-04 was adopted as presented [Yes: 871; No: 39].

Res. 18-05 “To Encourage District Presidents, Circuit Visitors, and Congregations to Utilize Resources Already Established for Ministerial Wellness” (*TB*, pp. 201f.—preconvention issue) was formally introduced by the committee. The chair hearing no objection to proceeding to vote without discussion, Res. 18-05 was adopted as presented [Yes: 883; No: 22].

Res. 18-06 “To Respectfully Decline Overtures 18-02 and 18-03” (*TB*, p. 202—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. The chair hearing no objection to proceeding to vote without discussion, Res. 18-06 was adopted as presented [Yes: 884; No: 23].

Committee 4: Life Together

Committee 4 Chairman Dan Gilbert, President of the Northern Illinois District, called attention to his committee’s proposed resolutions, and Res. 4-01 “To Celebrate 175 Years of Combined Ministry and Service of LWML and ILLL” (*TB*, p. 62—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. The chair hearing no objection to voting without discussion, the assembly voted on the resolution by standing and singing the Common Doxology. Res. 4-01 was adopted as presented.

Res. 4-02A “To Reaffirm Witness, Mercy, Life Together as the Mission and Ministry Emphasis for the 2016–2019 Triennium” (*TB*, p. 347—Monday issue) was introduced by the committee. With no objection to proceeding directly to the vote, Res. 4-02A was adopted as presented [Yes: 859; No: 21].

Res. 4-03B “To Convene Task Force to Review Recognized Service Organization Program and Bylaws” (*TB*, pp. 428ff.—Tuesday edition) was introduced by the committee. During discussion, a motion to amend the resolution by adding a clinical pastoral educated chaplain to the membership of the proposed task force was, after response by the committee, withdrawn. When the assembly was ready to vote, Res. 4-03B was adopted as presented [Yes: 742; No: 57].

Res. 4-04A “To Appeal to LCMS Congregations, Workers, and Institutions Within Christian Freedom and For Love’s Sake to Retain a Common Order of Service for the Lord’s Supper” (*TB*, pp. 349f.—Monday issue) was introduced by the committee. During discussion, a proposed amendment was accepted as a friendly amendment by the committee to add the phrase “which includes praying the Lord’s Prayer” in the first resolve paragraph after the word “needs.” An amendment was also proposed to replace the first resolve paragraph with the first resolve paragraph from the original Res. 4-04 printed on pages 64–66 in the preconvention issue of *Today’s Business*. After discussion, the proposed amendment was withdrawn. When the chair asked whether the assembly was ready to vote on the resolution, debate was ended [Yes: 726; No: 192] and Res. 4-04A was adopted as changed [Yes: 795; No: 146].

Res. 4-05A “To Continue and Expand the *Koinonia* Project” (*TB*, p. 351—Monday issue) was introduced by the committee. During discussion, the committee agreed to a friendly amendment to delete the word “six” before the words “study groups” in the second resolve paragraph. By voice vote, the assembly agreed to end debate on Res. 4-05A, which was then adopted as changed [Yes: 879; No: 40].

Res. 4-06 “To Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of *The Lutheran Hymnal*” (*TB*, pp. 67f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee and adopted without discussion [Yes: 830; No: 51]. As called for by the resolution, the convention sang Hymn 283 from *The Lutheran Hymnal*, “God’s Word is Our Great Heritage.”

Committee 14: Church and Culture

Committee 14 Chairman Terry Forke introduced Res. 14-11 “To Affirm the Vocations of First-Responders” (*TB*, p. 435—Tuesday issue) on behalf of his committee. When the assembly was asked by the chair whether it was ready vote on the resolution and hearing no objection, Res. 14-11 was adopted as presented [Yes: 717; No: 5].

Res. 14-07A “To Encourage Vocation and Confession in the Public Square” (*TB*, pp. 432f.—Tuesday issue) was introduced by the committee. The chair hearing no objection with proceeding to a vote on the resolution, the vote was taken and Res. 14-07A was adopted as presented [Yes: 802; No: 11].

Res. 14-04 “To Affirm the Right of Clergy to Continue Conducting Weddings in Accordance with Confession” (*TB*, p. 180—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. When a motion to call the question was introduced, debate was ended by voice vote and Res. 14-04 was adopted as presented [Yes: 830; No: 33].

Res. 14-08A “To Affirm Compassionate Care to End of Natural Life” (*TB*, pp. 433f.—Tuesday issue) was introduced by the committee. By voice vote, the chair tested the will of the assembly to move directly to a vote on the resolution. The assembly agreed to vote without debate, and Res. 14-08A was adopted as presented [Yes: 854; No: 12].

Res. 14-09 “To Commend CTCR Document ‘Gender Identity Disorder or Gender Dysphoria in Christian Perspective’” (*TB*, pp. 183f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. The chair proceeded immediately to call the vote on the resolution, and Res. 14-09 was adopted as presented [Yes 838; No: 16].

Res. 14-10A “To Thank Alliance Defending Freedom” (*TB*, p. 434—Tuesday issue) was introduced by the committee. After comments from the floor in support of the resolution, the chair called for a voice vote to determine whether the assembly was ready to proceed to a vote on the resolution. With the assembly indicating its readiness to vote, Res. 14-10A was adopted as presented [Yes: 893; No: 9].

Committee 7: University Education

After introductory comments and after noting minor corrections to the resolution as printed, Committee 7 Chairman Timothy Scharf called on Dr. Patrick Ferry, President of Concordia University Wisconsin, to present Res. 7-02B “To Preserve Concordia Colleges and Universities as Institutions of the Church and Strengthen Their Structural Bonds with the Synod” (*TB*, pp. 491ff.—Thursday issue). Following its formal introduction by the committee, and after debate was ended [Yes: 768; No: 67], Res. 7-02B was adopted as presented [Yes: 731; No: 48].

Res. 7-03A “To Amend Certain Concordia University System Bylaws” (*TB*, pp. 360ff.—Monday issue) was introduced by the committee. The assembly agreed to proceed to the vote on the resolution [Yes: 713; No: 46], and Res. 7-03A was adopted as presented [Yes: 768; No: 38].

Res. 7-06B “To Assist Our CUS Institutions in Demonstrating Our Common Confession” (*TB*, pp. 495f.—Thursday issue) was introduced by the committee. After debate was ended [Yes: 715; No: 98], Res. 7-06B was adopted as presented [Yes: 660; No: 171].

Committee 1: National Witness

Committee 1 Chairman Mark Miller called the assembly’s attention to Res. 1-03 “To Expand the Work of Revitalization and Encourage the Use of the *re:Vitality* Program” (*TB*, pp. 44f.—preconvention issue). After its introduction by the committee, the chair, hearing no objection, called for the vote and Res. 1-03 was adopted as presented [Yes: 756; No: 24].

Res. 1-04 “To Encourage Immigrant and Refugee Outreach” (*TB*, p. 46—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. During brief discussion, the committee agreed to the addition of “LCMS” in the second-last resolve paragraph after the word “other.” The assembly then agreed to proceed to vote on the resolution with the one change [Yes: 727; No: 32] and Res. 1-04 was adopted as changed [Yes: 765; No: 14].

Res. 1-05 “To Give Thanks and Praise to God for 40th Anniversary of Hmong Ministry and Encourage Synod Support” (*TB*, pp. 46f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee and adopted without discussion by voice vote.

Res. 1-06 “To Celebrate Legacy of Rosa J. Young and Encourage Launch of Rosa J. Young International Academies” (*TB*, pp. 47f.—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. After discussion, the chair tested the will of the assembly to proceed with the vote on the resolution [Yes: 727; No: 25]. Debate thereby ended, Res. 1-06 was adopted as presented [Yes: 764; No: 9].

Res. 1-07 “To Encourage and Support Hispanic Ministry Initiatives” (*TB*, p. 380—Sunday issue, Part 2) was introduced by the committee. The chair hearing no objection to proceeding to vote on the resolution without discussion, Res. 1-07 was adopted as presented, by voice vote.

Committee 3: Mercy

Committee 3 Chairman Lee Hagan called attention to Res. 3-03 “To Encourage Synod to Educate and Advocate for Persecuted Christians” (*TB*, pp. 58f.—preconvention issue). After its formal introduction by the committee and without debate, the assembly voted on the resolution [Yes: 782; No: 1]. President Harrison, hoping for a unanimous vote on the resolution, asked the assembly to vote again. For a second time, Res. 3-03 was adopted by a near-unanimous vote [Yes: 788; No: 2].

Res. 3-06 “To Support and Expand Work of LCMS World Relief and Human Care Through the Offices of International and National Mission” (*TB*, p. 61—preconvention issue) was introduced by the committee. Hearing no objection, the chair called for the vote on Res. 3-06, which was adopted (Yes: 782; No: 4).

Unfinished Business

The chair recognized Mid-South District President Roger Paavola, who requested opportunity to present an unpublished resolution for convention consideration and was provided opportunity to present it orally. Picking up where an earlier light-hearted convention moment and several earlier resolutions left off, Res. 13-06 was read and introduced as follows:

To Fund Seminary and University Education (“Mustache Resolution”)

Resolution 13-06

WHEREAS, The Synod in convention heard reports and resolutions from Floor Committees 6, 7, 9, 13, and 18 regarding the critical need for funding undergraduate and seminary education; and

WHEREAS, There are more than two million members of congregations belonging to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, The delegates to the 66th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod voted on a “Mustache Motion” earlier in the convention and did so by the narrowest of margins; and

WHEREAS, The best example of facial hair in the Synod is that of our dear brother in Christ, Dr. Roland Ziegler; and

WHEREAS, All members of the Synod should be allowed and encouraged to participate in deciding which person has the best representation of facial hair in the Synod; therefore be it

Resolved, That all individual and congregant members of the Synod be allowed to vote for the best example of a mustache in the Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That in order to vote in this critical matter, individual or congregant members of the Synod shall submit one dollar (US) per vote to cast their votes for the best mustache in the Synod, with the goal of raising two million dollars for scholarships for workers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That the dollars collected be placed in either the Joint Seminary Fund or a Concordia University System scholarship fund of choice; and be it further

Resolved, That this “Mustache Resolution” have until December 31, 2016, to raise two million dollars for the Joint Seminary Fund or Concordia University System scholarship funds; and be it further

Resolved, That the recipient of the smallest amount of dollars raised between Synod President Matthew Harrison and Montana District President Terry Forke must have his mustache shaved off in full or in part by the other participant; and be it further

Resolved, That if the two-million-dollar goal is not met, the presenter of this resolution shall be required to grow facial hair until it either resembles the beard and mustache of Dr. Roland Ziegler or said presenter’s wife begs him to shave; and be it further

Resolved, That when the two-million-dollar goal is achieved, both President Harrison and President Forke shall shave their mustaches in full or in part at the discretion of the plenary of the Council of Presidents; and be it further

Resolved, That until Dr. Ziegler has raised \$100 on his own behalf, he will be required to completely shave; and be it finally

Resolved, That since this presenter must publicly apologize for inadvertently failing to recognize Dr. Ziegler for his tireless dedication to the 4-06A Task Force and valued assistance to the floor committee when Floor Committee #13 was introduced, this presenter shall begin the funding and meet the requirements of Dr. Ziegler by raising \$100 on Dr. Ziegler’s behalf while also contributing \$75 each on behalf of President Matthew Harrison and President Terry Forke.

Res. 13-06 was adopted by voice vote, the chair noting the absence of a negative vote.

Itinerarium

Chaplain William Weedon served as liturgist for the service of prayer before travel, which concluded with the singing of “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” Cantor Phillip Magness (organist) and Matthew Janssen (trumpet) accompanied the hymn.

Adjournment

Again using the gavel used at every Synod convention for the past hundred-plus years, President Matthew Harrison declared “the 66th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adjourned in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Raymond L. Hartwig, *Secretary*