



## DAILY MINUTES OF THE 38<sup>TH</sup> CONVENTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT, LCMS

**FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2018**

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### **Call to Order**

Rev. Dr. John R. Denninger called the meeting to Order at 9:03 am.

### **Report of the Registration Committee**

As of 9:03 am 128 Pastoral Voting Delegates and 141 Lay Voting Delegates (269 voting delegates) in addition 48 Advisory Delegates, and 58 others for a total of 375 present.

### **Introduction of 2018 Proceedings Review Committee**

Deaconess Deb Lennox, Rev. Jeff Marquardt and Ms. Debra Richardson have been appointed by the chair to become the Proceedings Review Committee. They will review and recommend adoption of the previous days minutes/proceedings.

### **Approval of Thursday's Proceedings**

The Proceedings Review Committee, having reviewed the minutes/proceedings of Thursday May 10, 2018 recommends the convention approve the minutes. The chairman called for and received from the floor a motion and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the proceedings from Thursday May 10, 2018. Motion carried by voice vote.

The Chairman sought any floor nominations for the following offices: Treasurer; Commissioned Members to the Board of Directors; Member and Alternate to the Synod Nominations Committee. No nominations were offered for any of these offices. The Chairman declared nominations closed for these offices.

**Morning Prayer:** Rev. Dr. Michael Ramey began with a morning devotion (Mark 1:16-20) and prayer. Prayer requests were also announced and included in the devotion.

### **Lay Delegate Results from Yesterday –**

256 ballots cast. The convention elected Janis McDaniels, lay delegate to the Board of Directors. The nominee with the lowest votes was dropped from the list and a 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot was distributed to elect 4 lay members to the Board of Directors. The chair opened voting and, after sufficient allotted time, closed voting, having the ballots collected for counting.

## Convention Essayist – Presentation 1 – Rev. Dr. Robert Scudieri

Using John 21, attendees were encouraged to “Fish on the other side of the boat”.

### **Res. 6-18-05 – is before the convention from the elections committee**

There was no discussion – the resolution requests the delegation stand and sing, “We are Marching in the Light of God” to show they are in favor of the resolution. The convention in unanimous action rose and sang.

### **Welcome New Ministries – Rev. Dr. John Denninger**

- Ethiopian Evangelical Mekane Yesus Lutheran Church, Cary, NC
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Midlothian, VA
- Oromo Evangelical Lutheran Church of North Carolina, Cary, NC
- Oromo Lutheran Church of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD
- Oromo Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kensington, MD
- New Hope Lutheran Church, Mooresville, NC
- Trinity Hmong Lutheran Church, Newton, NC
- *King of Glory Lutheran Church, New Kent, VA*
- *Shalom Ethiopian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Alexandria, VA*

## **Greetings from our Partners in Mission**

Dr. Timothy Smith, Bishop of the ELCA, NC Synod, brought greetings to the convention.

## **Election of Vice Presidents**

**Northern Region** : Rev. Dr. Lloyd Gaines; Rev. Dr. John Johnson; Rev. Dr. Charles Ransdell; Rev. Elliott M. Robertson. No candidate received a majority on the first ballot; A 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot was offered Rev. Dr. Lloyd Gaines; Rev. Elliott Robinson.

The convention elected Rev. Dr. Lloyd Gaines 130 to 116.

**Central Region**: Rev. Braun Campbell; Rev. William Harmon

The convention elected Rev. William Harmon 161 to 79.



**Southern Region:** Rev. P. Gregory Alms; Rev. William Beyer; Rev. Anton Lagoutine; Rev. Dr. Michael Ramey

Elected Rev. William Beyer on the first Ballot with 125 votes (Alms 59; Lagoutine 17; Ramey 40)

### **Ranking of Vice Presidents**

After selecting the VP's for the SED, the convention, using the electronic audience devices ranked the VP's.

Ranking of SED Vice Presidents as follows  
Northern Rev. Lloyd Gaines 3<sup>rd</sup> VP  
Central Rev. William Harmon 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Southern Rev. William Beyer 1<sup>st</sup> VP

**A Report from The Elections committee:** having tabulated the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot for Lay Delegate to the SED Board of Directors reported that there was no one elected. The 2 individuals with the lowest vote count (Art Marshall and Mike Handzo) were removed. 11 names remain and a 3rd ballot was taken.

### **Listening Prayer: For the Mission and Ministry of Synod Joshua 4:1-7**

#### **Synod President's Report – Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison**

The Lutheran Reformation is born of Joy! Our national convention theme in 2019 "Joy:Fully Lutheran"  
2 challenges were offered to us....

Challenge 1 – Read the Bible Daily – Scripture is Gold

Challenge 2 - Read the confessions, know them for we claim them to be true.

Where we are and why.

We are on the same team, with the same team. Demographics are not the answer to the future, the Word of God is. Demographics are law. The Word is Gospel.

SED declined 12% in 10 years, we are in the top 1/3 of the LCMS with a slower church decline. Some districts have declined as much as 33% in the same period of time.



Comparisons were made with our performance to other denominations. All in decline, ours is slower. We were urged to reach out from this place, fishing on all sides of the boat.

Some answers –

Train the members in witness;

Revitalize with a plan for the future.

Millennials – relationships with pastor, people, and efforts to be in leadership and service, we lose. Retention is a BIG issue as we lose 35% of our youngsters before adulthood.

Reference to the Joy:Fully Lutheran document at tables was made.

### **Q&A with President Harrison**

1. *What is happening with global missions?* Pastor Harrison is very encouraged. The number of missionaries has doubled in the past year. Work in Central and South America, Africa, etc. are going well. India is a challenge with its corruption in the church.
2. *Where are we going?* In the presentation we were asked to revitalize with a plan for the future at the local level... where are we going? Also, we seem to be coming apart again as we look at seminary attitudes that exist. Our district declines follow the general population demographics for European Americans in the same regions. President Harrison does not have a recent experience of differing seminary attitudes.
3. *Where did President Harrison attend seminary (both); How many cases have come before the president since the change in ecclesiastical supervision (zero); Does the Synodical President have “carte Blanche” in removing a pastor (If a pastor is publicly doing something contrary to Synod, the District President is to act and the Synodical President may act in his place if the District President doesn’t act, and the dispute resolution process is still available)*
4. *What plan is in place for pastor shortages?* Small classes coming in now. The size of classes is consistent with the millennials population. Recruitment needs to be encouraged by our pastors and congregations.
5. *How do we help keep our young people from confirmation to adulthood?* New catechism has apologetics sections now to help in our training.
6. *With declining membership ahead, is there a restructure plan for the future?* Bylaws, restricted giving limitations etc. Internal borrowing is a consideration as well as internal indebtedness. Redistricting will have to come from the Districts not from the Synod.

### **Prayer for President Harrison – led by our chaplain**

With the Presidium laying on hands, the convention was led in prayer for our Synodical President, Matthew Harrison.



## **Announcements and Prayer for Meal**

**The Chair placed the convention in recess until 1:55pm.**

### **Report from Registration Committee**

As of 2pm Friday, May 11, 2018, 128 Pastoral Voting Delegates and 143 Lay Voting Delegates (271 total voting delegates), 49 Advisory Delegates and 68 others were present making a total attendance of 388.

Secretary nominations closed as there were no nominations

### **Election of Secretary**

Rev. John Kassouf 147 votes

Rev. Kevin Martin 81 votes

Rev. John Kassouf was elected Secretary of the SED.

### **Election of Treasurer**

Tom DeMik 159 votes

Kenneth Herrholz 62 votes

Tom DeMik was elected Treasurer of the SED.

### **Election of Commissioned Members**

Dr Dina Vendetti 177

Paula Weiss 171

Melissa Weldon 90

Teacher Dr. Dina Vendetti and DCE Paula Weiss were elected as commissioned members to the SED Board of Directors.

### **Election of Lay Members**

A 3<sup>rd</sup> paper ballot elected Beth Elgert. We will now use the electronic ballot to elect the remaining 3 lay members of the board.



On a 4<sup>th</sup> ballot no majority was made. The two with the lowest votes were removed and a 5<sup>th</sup> ballot is presented.

On a 5<sup>th</sup> ballot there was no majority so the individual with the lowest vote was removed and a 6<sup>th</sup> ballot was presented.

Russ Boraas was elected on the 6<sup>th</sup> ballot.

7<sup>th</sup> ballot no one was elected, again the individual with the lowest vote count was removed.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> ballot the convention elected Ron Bostick and Nancy Nolley.

Janis McDaniels, Beth Elgert, Russell Boraas, Ron Bostick and Nancy Nolley were elected as the 5 lay members to the SED Board of Directors.

#### *Lay member – Northern Region*

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Ballot the convention elected Mrs. Karen Boyette.

#### *Ordained member – Central Region*

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot the convention elected Rev. Timothy Bohlmann.

#### *Commissioned Member – Southern Region*

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot the convention elected Mr. Tom Kolb.

Elected to the SED District Nominating Committee

Mrs. Karen Boyette, Rev. Timothy Bohlmann, Mr. Tom Kolb

#### **Election of Member and Alternate for Synod Nominations Committee**

Elected Member and Alternate for Synod Nominations Committee

Rev. Dr. Jon Diefenthaler elected on the 1st ballot.

Rev. Dr. David R. Maack elected alternate on the 1st ballot.



### **Ratify Slate of Circuit Visitors**

Circuit Visitors, as selected by Circuit Forums, were presented as a slate for ratification by the voting delegates of the convention.

Circuit 1	Rev. David F. Nuss
Circuit 2	Rev. James L. Banach
Circuit 3	Rev. Charles C. Minetree
Circuit 4	Rev. Dr. David R. Maack
Circuit 5	Rev. Martin J. Schultheis
Circuit 6	Rev. Christopher D. Harrison
Circuit 7	Rev. Peter A. Schiebel
Circuit 8	Rev. Dr. Jonathan A. Blanke
Circuit 9A	Rev. Gary D. Rueter
Circuit 9B	Rev. Wayne J. Lehrer
Circuit 10	Rev. Dr. Matthew D. Bean
Circuit 11	Rev. William W. Carr, Jr.
Circuit 12	Rev. Lawrence J. McReynolds
Circuit 13E	Rev. James M. Daub
Circuit 13W	Rev. Michael S. Merker
Circuit 14	Rev. James A. McDaniels
Circuit 15	Rev. Dr. Ronald J. Wiese
Circuit 16	Rev. Anton G. Lagoutine
Circuit 17	Rev. David W. Ziehr
Circuit 18	Rev. Ted L. Crandall
Circuit 19	Rev. Dr. John G. Brunner

It was moved and seconded to ratify the list of circuit nominees.  
The motion was carried with 97% in favor.

### **Greetings from our Partners in Mission**

Rev. Dr. Gil Gilberts of NALC

### **Listening Prayer: For Mission Eyes as We Do the Work of the Convention**

### **Greetings from our Partners in Mission**

Rev. Roger Dow of Concordia Seminary St. Louis  
Bruce Southerland – Lutheran Hour Ministries



**Floor Committee: Theology & Practice**  
**Rev. Dr. Mike Ramey Committee chair**  
TP05-18-05 on the screen and on YAPP

The committee, after reading the resolution moved for adoption. The resolution TP05-18-05 was carried 194 to 18.

TP05-18-03a was presented. It was moved and second without discussion.

TP05-18-03a was presented to the convention and was adopted 180 vs. 40.

TP05-18-01

Rev. Elliott Robertson spoke to the resolution, asking if it would be null and void because of our action. The committee has suggested removal of the final resolved. That suggestion was dropped without action.

The lay Delegate Grace Woodbridge, VA, suggests the 2<sup>nd</sup> resolved, add "Should" be rendered. Line 28, is where the amendment would be made as a friendly amendment.

The Debate was closed by voice vote.

TP05-18-01 as amended (friendly amendment by committee) was presented to the convention (*see attached*) and was adopted 75% to 25%.

TP05-18-02 was presented to the convention for adoption.

The resolution TP05-18-02 was adopted 75% to 25%.

## **Greetings from our Partners in Mission**

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services Kristy Herring





**Floor Committee: Mission Development**  
**Rev. Bill Beyer Chairman**

Res. MD-01-18-01a was presented to the convention and moved for adoption.

The resolution MD-01-18-01a was adopted 207 to 14.

Res. MD-01-18-02 was presented to the convention and moved for adoption.

The resolution MD -01-18-02 was adopted 190 to 27.

Res. MD-01-18-03 was presented to the convention and the committee moved for adoption.

The resolution MD -01-18-03 was adopted 188 to 27.

Res. MD-01-18-04 was presented to the convention, the committee moved for adoption.

The resolution MD-01-18-04 was adopted 195 to 21.

Res. MD-01-18-05a was presented to the convention, the committee moved for adoption.

The resolution MD-01-08-05a was adopted 188 to 40.

Res. MD-01-18-06 was presented to the convention, the committee moved for adoption.

Rev. John Rickert, Our Redeemer, Newark, DE spoke to the motion.  
Josh Mies asked for a point of information... how many pastors are CRM in the SED?  
Answer, approximately 15.



Rev. Jeff Ware asked, “What is an emergency situation?” Committee chair Beyer indicated no definition has been given but that would be done between a District President and congregation. The District President then brings the situation to the Council of Presidents for special action with a Lay Deacon providing Word and Sacrament ministry.

Matthew Henderson, asked about line 19 in the whereas section. He presented a motion to strike the whereas from line 19-21. There was a second. (This was the fourth Whereas). The committee accepted this as a friendly amendment and no vote was taken.

Rev. Peter Eckhardt, with consideration to Article 14 of the Augsburg Confession contradicted the resolution. We need to find a solution in keeping with our confessions.

Russ Boraas, Trinity, Richmond, quoted Walther having a “helper” in time of emergency or need.

Rev. Matt Bean, Richmond, VA moved the question. A 2<sup>nd</sup> was offered. The motion was defeated.

Rev. Mark Drengher spoke in favor of the resolution.

Rev. Mike Ramey spoke in favor of the resolution.

Rev. Jon Diefenthaler spoke strongly in favor of the resolution to move the mission forward in this district. We need everyone possible who is able and qualified to go forward.

Kitty Rickert Newark, DE spoke in favor of the resolution.

Matt Sorenson, St. John’s, offered information about the idea of “emergency”

A resolution to end debate was passed.

The amended resolution (see attached) MD-01-08-06 was adopted 179 to 52.

### **Greetings from our Partners in Mission**

Rev. Dr. Larry Rast, President Concordia Seminary Ft. Wayne Indiana

Rev. Arthur Scherr President Emeritus SED – Mid Atlantic Lutherans in Mission

Rev. Bart Day – LCEF (video)



**Floor Committee: Stewardship & Finance**  
**Mr. Tom DeMik chairman**

SF-03-18-01 was presented to the convention, the committee moved adoption.

Rev. Matt Sorenson, Farmville, VA offered a friendly amendment (see attached)

Rev. Gary Yader from Lynchburg, VA asked what recognition by the SED

Rev. Mike Ramey, Claremont, NC called the question. The motion to stop debate succeeded and the resolution came before the convention.

The resolution SF-03-18-01 was adopted 165 to 45.

SF-03-18-02 was presented to the convention, the committee moved adoption

The resolution SF-03-18-02 was adopted 184 to 22.

SF-03-18-03 was presented to the convention, the committee moved for adoption.

James Young, Grace, Woodbridge added a friendly amendment for grammatical correction on line 42: "encourages".

Rev. Peter Demik, asked to switch the order of resolve 1 & 2 and this was accepted by the floor committee as a friendly amendment.

Rev. Jeff Ware, All Saints, Charlotte, NC, moved a friendly amendment to the second to last resolve that the SED also follow this practice as asked of Synod (see attached).

Rev. Christopher Burger, Columbia, SC – is this burdensome to the SED or the LCMS (the quarterly reporting)? The treasurer believed this would not be burdensome for the SED and believes but can't speak to the LCMS, that it would not be burdensome for the LCMS. AS it would be done electronically, it would not be a burden.

John Lawyer, Bethlehem, Richmond, offered grammatical corrections that were accepted.

The amended resolution SF-03-18-03 (see attached) was adopted 190 to 23



## **Closing Announcements**

Worship will be at 7:30 pm at St. Stephen's in Hickory. We stand in recess until 8:30 am tomorrow.

## **Adjourn and Travel to Worship**

### **The Celebration of the Eucharist – Rev. Dr. John Denninger, Proclaimer**

Servant of Christ Recipients:

- Deaconess Faith A. Marburger, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, VA
- Mrs. Janis G. McDaniels, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Greensboro, NC
- Mr. Stuart H. Nichols, Ascension Lutheran Church, Charlotte, NC
- Mrs. Elfrieda R. Ramsay, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Laurel, MD
- Mr. Bryce O. Thomas, St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hickory, NC
- Mrs. Deborah L. Willemann, Grace Lutheran Church, Woodbridge, VA

