

**The Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod  
California - Nevada - Hawaii  
71<sup>st</sup> District Convention**

**Second Session  
Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

## **17. OPENING**

President Newton opened the second session of the convention at 7:55 am.

Rev. Ted Hartman offered the opening devotion.

## **18. RESULTS OF THE REGIONAL FORUMS**

Rev. Clarence Eisberg was called to the podium to announce the results of the Regional Forums that were held Friday afternoon after the close of the first session.

The results of those elections are as follows:

### **Regional Vice-Presidents**

Northern Region – Rev. Jason Bredeson

Pacific Region – Rev. Aaron Smith

Southern Region – Rev. Clarence Eisberg

Hawaii Region – Rev. Mitchell Gowen

Nevada Region – Rev. Jedidiah Maschke

### **Regional Lay Delegates**

Northern Region – Laurie Hertzberg

Pacific Region – Joan Hilse

Southern Region – Marilyn Maxner

Hawaii Region – Lana Wold

Nevada Region – Curt Drumm

There was a question concerning the procedure used by the Northern Region in their election. After a period of discussion, a motion was approved to allow the election to stand.

- ***A motion was made and seconded to accept the election results as reported. The motion was approved.***

## **19. ELECTION OF THE DISTRICT SECRETARY**

Before the start of the election proceeding, Rev. John Whaley asked to have his name removed from the ballot.

The nominees for the Office of District Secretary are as follows:

Rev. Tyrel Bramwell

Rev. John Standley

Rev. Morris W. Stephens, Jr.

Nominations were opened from the floor; seeing none, nominations were closed.

- ***Rev. John Standley was elected to his 4<sup>th</sup> term with 70% of the vote on the first ballot.***

## **20. REGISTRATION REPORT**

President Newton welcomed the Chair of the Registration Committee, James Kabel, to the podium to offer the following report:

Voting Lay Delegates = 106

Voting Pastoral Delegates = 95

***Total Voting Delegates = 201***

Total Non-Voting Participants = 131

***Total Registered = 332***

- ***A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was approved.***

## **21. SYNOD 1<sup>st</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT**

President Newton introduced the Rev. Dr. Herbert Mueller. Rev. Mueller serves as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of the Synod.

A publication titled, “Joy:Fully Lutheran” was handed out to those in attendance. Rev. Mueller advised that he would be referencing the document during his presentation. A video that has been prepared by the Synod was shown. Rev. Mueller stated that the video would be available for download by the first of July.

Rev. Mueller focused on the phrase “Joy:Fully Lutheran” which will serve as the theme for the upcoming Synod-wide Convention. He referenced it in connection with Luther’s phrase, “The Joyful Exchange.” – We give Jesus our sins, and in return, we receive all that he is, clothing us in His righteousness.

Rev. Mueller referred to the Synod booklet that includes several sections expounding on the theme of joy: Grace Alone – Baptism – Absolution – The Lord’s Supper – The Spiritual Priesthood and others.

He offered two questions to ask our congregations:

1. Who are the hurting people in your community?
2. What are you doing to connect them with Christ?

In addressing the declining number of members in the Missouri Synod, he noted that 35% of the members of Synod became members as adults.

He touched on the financial position of the Synod, noting that it is better than in the recent past.

The Vice-President closed by taking questions from the convention floor. The topics included: Ministry to the homeless – The closing of Concordia-Selma – Racial division/diversity in the Synod – Change in music and liturgy to accommodate the changing culture – Merging of congregations – Licensed Lay Deacons – Demographics and Youth Ministry.

Rev. Mueller concluded by encouraging the convention to look out, not in and reminding all that Christ is Lord alone.

## **22. COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Rev. Michael Lange offered a detailed biography as an introduction to our new President-Elect. He detailed a long family history in the Church and the LCMS. First and foremost, Mike describes himself as a child of God. He concluded by offering God's blessing to all and stating, *"I can't wait to get started."*

## **23. TREASURER ELECTION**

Nominations submitted from the Nomination Committee included:

Kurt A.F. Kiesow III

H. Louise Rickey

Chairman Eisberg opened nominations from the floor as allowed by District Bylaws, seeing none, the nominations were closed.

- ***H. Louise Rickey is declared the Treasurer-Elect with 60% of the vote.***

## **24. WORSHIP SERVICE OFFERING**

President Newton shared that gifts totaling \$1,930.00 were given at Friday evening's worship service. He opened the floor to suggestions as to who might receive the funds. Four suggestions came forth:

1. Mini-Grants
2. SOYL (School of Young Leaders)
3. Fire Victims
4. Good News Magazine – to assist with fire loss.

The President asked the delegates to consider the options. He advised that the vote would be taken later in the proceeding.

## **25. ELECTION OF THE COMMISSIONED MINISTER**

Chair of the Elections Committee, Rev. Clarence Eisberg, opened nominations from the floor; seeing none, the nominations were closed.

The nominees for Commissioned Minister Delegate to the Board of Directors as submitted by the Nominations Committee are:

Elizabeth J. Froh

Mike Mancini

- ***Mike Mancini was elected to his second term as the Commissioned Minister Delegate to the District Board of Directors.***

## 26. APPROVAL OF BYLAW CHANGES

Rev. Richard Rice, Chair of the District Committee on Constitutional Matters, moved for adoption of the changes made to the bylaws during the last triennium. The majority of these changes were made because of action taken by the District and Synod in convention. A change concerning the election of the Commissioned Minister was made to conform with our normal practice.

- ***A motion was made and seconded to adopt the changes to the Bylaws. A friendly amendment was offered to delete redundant wording in section VI.f.2.a. "In the first business of the session of the convention..." The motion was approved as amended.***

## 27. PLENARY SPEAKER / BIBLE STUDY – Part One

Rev. Thomas Zelt and Rev. Michael Lange will work together to present a two-part Bible Study, *"Strange and Estranged World."*

Rev. Zelt began by noting that over the years, the percentage of people in worship has stayed relatively constant while the population has increased dramatically. In 1976, approximately 17% of the population was active in worship. Today, that number is at 17.6%.

The convention was asked to look at Romans 3:10 where Paul quotes Psalm 14:3, indicating that the attitude toward God's word was the same in his day as it was in David's. *"None is righteous, no, not one"*. Given that, it shouldn't surprise us that the world around us doesn't understand us. (Acts 2:22,37)

Tom suggested a few instances that would have seemed strange to people in the 1<sup>st</sup> century.

- Repentance – A change of the mind, not a change in behavior.
- Baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- Baptizing a Eunuch - Acts 8:27

Rev. Zelt continued, offering a sample of New Testament texts, examining the Strange and Estranged world of the 1<sup>st</sup>-century disciple. As we now consider those texts, we quickly realize that to the world today, we start at the same point as those disciples – "We have a risen Jesus."

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Mike Lange continued the study reminding the convention that the resurrection is central to everything that we do. Rev. Lange directed the attendees to consider Luke 24, the account of the disciples on the Emmaus road. We remember how their minds were open at the hearing of the Word and the breaking of the bread. The key to it all is the resurrection.

Passages were offered from the Old Testament that point to God's love for all. Michael asked, *"Do we have a place for those coming from other cultures?"* He then stated, *"The nations are among us. The resurrection is still in charge."*

Rev. Lange noted that we might define neighbor as those close by. He added that Jesus would further define that as, *"But not always friendly."*

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Rev. Zelt concluded by telling of a conversation that he recently had with a Jewish friend concerning Jesus. After a series of back and forths, for and against Jesus as the Messiah, Tom offered, *"If he rose from the dead, he might be the guy."*

## **28. BREAK FOR LUNCH**

At 11:55 am, President Newton declared the convention to be in recess for lunch. The Convention will resume at 1:00 pm.

## **29. REGISTRATION REPORT**

President Newton called the convention to order at 1:10 pm. At that time, he called the chair of Registration, Rev. James Kabel, to the podium to offer an updated and final report on convention registration. The report is as follows:

Voting Lay Delegates = 106

Voting Pastoral Delegates = 96

***Total Voting Delegates = 202***

Total Non-Voting Participants = 131

***Total Registered = 333***

- ***A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was approved.***

## **30. GREETINGS FROM THE LUTHERAN FOUNDATION**

President Newton introduced Mr. Brian Hyde who serves as a Gift Planning Counselor for the LCMS Lutheran Foundation. A video was shown offering an overview of the work of the Lutheran Foundation.

## **31. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE ELECTION**

The Chair of the Elections Committee, Rev. Clarence Eisberg, was called to the podium to conduct the election of the District Nominations Committee. One member of the Clergy, one Commissioned Minister, and two laypersons are to be elected. Those nominated are as follows:

Rev. Clarence Eisberg (Clergy)

Patrice Appold (Commissioned Minister)

Lynnette Campbell (Layperson)

Carol Hack Broome (Layperson)

The Chair opened nominations from the floor; seeing none, the nominations were closed.

- ***A motion was made and seconded to elect the slate. The motion was approved. (128 total votes – 96% Yes)***

### **32. TO RATIFY THE SLATE OF CIRCUIT VISITORS**

Rev. Eisberg presented the slate for Circuit Visitors as elected during the Circuit Forums held earlier in the year. The slate is as follows:

Circuit #1 – Rev. Christopher Ng

Circuit #2 – Rev. David Sauer

Circuit #3 – Rev. Daniel Deuel

Circuit #4 – Rev. Henry Scherer

Circuit #5 – Rev. Daniel Schlensker

Circuit #7 – To Be Appointed

Circuit #8 – Rev. Stewart Crown

Circuit #9 – Rev. Mark Whittaker

Circuit #10 – Rev. Jonathan Oetting

Circuit #11 – Rev. Milton Fricke

Circuit #12 – Rev. Brian Cummins

Circuit #13 – Rev. Marty Tyler

Circuit #14 – Rev. Theodore Mueller

Circuit #15 - Rev. Robert Schroeder

Circuit #16 – Rev. Richard Rice

Circuit #18 – Rev. Robert Weller

Circuit # 19 – Rev. John-Paul Meyer

Circuit #20 – Rev. Alan Hilton

- ***A motion was made and seconded to ratify the slate as presented. The motion was approved.***

### **33. GREETINGS FROM THE St. LOUIS SEMINARY**

President Newton introduced Rev. Dr. Kou Seying. Kou is the Lutheran Foundation Professor of Urban and Cross-Cultural Ministry and associate dean for Urban and Cross-Cultural Ministry and associate professor of Practical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Rev. Seying brings greetings from the St. Louis Seminary. He reports that while registration is up approximately 30% for the next term, more is needed.

### 34. RESOLUTION 2-04 – TO OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A PART-TIME DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Rev. Aaron Smith introduced the resolution. There was a motion and second to adopt the resolution. There were significant comments made, both in favor and in opposition. As the discussion came to a close, the vote was taken by electronic means.

- *The motion was defeated. Of the 151 votes cast, 76 votes – No / 75 Votes – Yes*

### 35. RESOLUTION 1-02 – TO CLARIFY THE ROLE AND RELATIONSHIP OF THE CNH MISSION AGENCY TO THE CNH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Newton called Rev. James Beyer forward to introduce Resolution 1-02.

- *A motion was made and seconded to adopt the resolution. By a show of hands, the resolution was approved.*

### 36. RESOLUTION 1-04 TO ENCOURAGE AND AFFIRM LAY MINISTRY WITHIN THE CNH DISTRICT

Rev. James Beyer introduced the resolution. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the resolution. There was a friendly amendment offered from the floor suggesting that the title “Specific Ministry Pastor” be used throughout the resolution (see line 28).

There was some discussion concerning the resolution. Synod 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Rev. Herbert Mueller, was asked to speak on the matter from the perspective of the Synod leadership.

- *The resolution was adopted as amended. The voting machines were utilized. The final vote, with 100 delegates responding was 83%- Yes / 17% - No*

### 37. GREETINGS FROM OTHERS

President Newton introduced Dr. William Heinke representing the **Orphan Grain Train**. Dr. Heinke noted that the Orphan Grain Train serves 67 countries and is now operating a warehouse in Sparks, Nevada.

The Convention welcomed Rev. Dr. Paul Mueller from the **Mission Training Center – Concordia, Portland**. He spoke briefly about the opportunities available through the Mission Training Center.

### 38. PLENARY SPEAKERS / BIBLE STUDY – Part Two

Rev. Zelt continued the study by reminding the convention that our situation is not new. The message is one of a Risen Savior. Rev. Zelt turned again to Acts 8:34, the account of Phillip and the Ethiopian Eunuch to help answer the question, “How does the message get out?” Verse 39 says, *“And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Phillip away, and the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing.”* Phillip is gone and the man continues on his way with the Gospel message.

Rev. Lange came back to the podium for the conclusion of his part of the presentation. He noted that in Christ, the work of the Priest is reset. The Priesthood of All Believers now moves out of the temple and into the places of the people of God. Mike went on to offer some quotes from Luther where the reformer spoke of the importance of the Priesthood of All Believers.

Rev. Lange made these final points:

- We exhibit the actions of the Priesthood in our daily lives.
- As a Synod, we recognize the gifts that God has given us and the importance of sharing those gifts with others.
- We are sometimes afraid to pray or think we don’t know how to pray.
- All true believers are the body of Christ – the Priesthood.
- Never discount the power of witness. Never discount the power of the Word.

Rev. Zelt returned with the question, *“How do we challenge and assist the people of God when the culture of Christian values don’t align with where we are? What do we do?”* Tom reviewed several sections from 1 Corinthians to help answer the question. He also went to 2 Timothy 4 where Paul instructs, *“preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”*<sup>3</sup> *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,*<sup>4</sup> *and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.* *ESV*

We have a world that thirsts for personal application.

### **39. VOTE ON WORSHIP OFFERING**

In the morning session, President Newton shared that gifts totaling \$1,930.00 were given at Friday afternoon’s worship service. He opened the floor to suggestions as to who might receive the funds. Four suggestions came forth:

1. Mini-Grants
2. SOYL (School of Young Leaders)
3. Fire Victims
4. Good News Magazine – to assist with fire loss.



Due to the generous gifts already received in response to fire relief, Rev. Beyer suggested that perhaps we should consider the other options. It was decided that #3 – Fire Victims would be taken from the list.

The President made an executive decision to open the vote to all in attendance.

- ***The vote was taken using the voting machines. SOYL received 58% and will receive gifts from the offering.***

#### **40. RESOLUTION 3-01 – TO OVERRULE BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MAY 2017 RESOLUTION 12-14 RE: BYLAW 7.1.2**

Rev. Jedidiah Maschke was called to the podium to introduce Resolution 3-01. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the Resolution. During the discussion, there were many comments both for and against the resolution.

- ***A vote was taken using the voting machines. The resolution was approved – 84% Yes / 16% No***

#### **41. RESOLUTION 1-03 -- TO PRIORITIZE THE USE OF LEGACY ASSETS**

Rev. James Beyer introduced Resolution 1-03, noting that the committee declined to move for adoption because of several questions that are not addressed in the resolution. Most of the comments offered from the floor spoke against the resolution.

- ***There was a Call for the Question from the floor. The motion to end debate was approved.***
- ***The vote was taken using the voting machines. The Resolution was defeated – 7% Yes / 93% No***

President Newton thanked and excused Committee #1.

#### **42. ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING WORSHIP**

With no further business, President Newton called Rev. Hank Scherer forward who briefly explained the Daily Offices. Rev. Scherer noted that even though the convention ended a bit earlier than was planned, the order of service followed today will still be Compline.

President Newton declared the convention adjourned at 4:45 pm -- He is Risen – He is Risen Indeed – Alleluiah!

Rev. Scherer led the convention in worship. President Newton offered the message.