

MINUTES OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 68TH CONVENTION OF THE
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA-HAWAII DISTRICT, MAY 15, 2009

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The Rev. Dr. Robert Newton called the 68th Convention of the CNH District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to order in the name of the Triune God.

The President's wife, Priscilla, was introduced and given a Hawaiian lei.

President Newton introduced the Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, President of the LCMS and his wife, Terry, and thanked them both for pastoral leadership, mentoring and service to the District and Synod. Terry was also presented with a Hawaiian lei.

The Board of Directors was introduced and thanked.

First Vice President, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Zelt was introduced to open the Convention with devotions. The devotions theme, "The Trouble with New & the Joy of the New" was based on Jeremiah 2:11-13 and Revelation 5:6-10, and was further highlighted with the singing of "Earth and All Stars" and "Alleluia. Sing to Jesus."

Thank yous were expressed to Prince of Peace, Fremont, Rev. Zelt, his staff and congregation, and others who are preparing for the worship service for this evening.

Rita Konda, Administrative Assistant to the President was introduced to the assembly and many expressions of thanks were shared for her service with joy, poise and excellence. Mrs. Newton presented Rita with an orchid corsage.

Bethlehem Ethiopian Lutheran Church in Berkeley, CA, represented by Mussie Manna, Muluneh Taye, and Pastor Dereje Fantaye were invited to the podium to sign the Constitution of Synod and become a member congregation of the LCMS.

Rev. Larry Krueger, assistant to President Kieschnick was introduced to the Convention.

Rev. Richard Rice, Parliamentarian and Rev. Mark Haas, District Secretary, were acknowledged for their service to the Convention.

Registration Committee Chairman, Rev James Kabel was welcomed to the podium to provide the initial registration number of delegates.

Voting Lay Delegates: 99 Voting Pastoral Delegates: 94
Total Voting Delegates: 193

Total Non-Voting Delegates: 116 Total Registered: 309

It was moved and seconded to accept the Registrar's Report as a quorum. The motion carried.

Adoption of Proposed Special Standing Rules: Parliamentarian Richard Rice presented CM pp.3-4. For questions of privilege, John Whaley was designated by the Chair. It was moved and seconded to accept the "Proposed Special Standing Rules." The motion carried.

Adoption of Convention program and Agenda -John Whaley presented the Agenda, CM pp.5-6. It was moved and seconded to accept the proposed agenda. The motion carried.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Zelt assumed the Chair to introduce President Newton for his Convention Report: PowerPoint Presentation: "Remapping for Mission." Which map? It's "A New Day" of post-church. Example points covered cultural insiders or outsiders: pre-church, churched, and post-church cultures. Who, where, what and when the conversation begins is determined by insiders. GPS and Recalculate. Let the cross take us into the post-church "recalculated." Board of Directors Outcome Policies, especially #'s 1-3: the President expressed his gratitude. Increased localization for outreach, sharpen the focus, transforming congregations for mission were highlighted. Round table discussion of delegates was conducted: Which map? Which contextual conditions exist? Introspection of congregation...small church in un-churched area...can the gospel be shared?

Floor comments: challenges discovered...role of pastor...determined by congregation and its locale...reaching Hispanics with Hispanics...laity role: post-church...exhibit good example of sharing the faith. New Testament Primer: 1 Peter. Elect "outsiders" of the dispersion. What makes mission work "mission work?" How will they hear? Preach gospel even to other groups.

Ted Hartman was called to the podium for a Revitalization presentation. Comments included remapping missionally, developing a post-church mentality in aging churches. Transforming Congregations for Mission is the Network in Synod. Transforming for Mission in the CNH is our version of "Revitalization." A DVD of those doing "revitalization." was shown. Recognition of Mission Counselors, team members, and support folks, as well as members of the 16 congregations who have begun the process stood with others praying over them. FAQ sheets were distributed.

Election of District President: Prayer by Acting Chair-First Vice President Zelt . Rev. Mark Kliewer, Election Committee Chair introduced. Rev. Zelt introduced a Bylaw dilemma of not enough nominations to prepare a ballot of candidates who received three or more nominations. Current ballot had one name rather than an assumed five. It was moved and seconded to receive a ballot of a single name. The motion carried. The nominee: Robert Newton. By a voice vote of acclamation requested by the Chair, a unanimous vote was received. (With Pricilla's approval, the office was accepted.) The gavel returned to President Newton.

Election of First Vice President: Elections Chairman, Rev. Mark Kliewer announced the procedure. Elections Guideline procedures are found in CM. The Rev. Dr. Zelt was nominated. Nominations were closed. It was moved and seconded to have a vote of acclamation. Rev. Kliewer offered a prayer on behalf of the Chair for the election. There was a unanimous acclamation vote.

Administration Floor Committee Restructuring Proposals (See Convention Business p.1-3)
Committee Chair: Rev. Ted Mueller called attention to the Resolutions regarding Hawaii and Nevada. Resolution 4-02: "To Divide California-Nevada-Hawaii Circuit #10 Into Two Circuits" was read by Rev. Clarence Eisberg.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 4-02. An amendment was offered to “add Faith, Yerrington and River of Life, Dayton, NV to the second WHEREAS”. The proposed amendment was moved and seconded. The motion was carried.

The amended Resolution 4-02 was adopted.

Resolution 4-03: “To Grant Regional Status to Hawaii and Nevada Circuits” was presented by Rev. Clarence Eisberg. (See also “Appendix A” for effect on Bylaws...pp. 1, 2, 9, 11)

It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 4-03. The motion was adopted.

Clarification of elections in caucuses for Vice President and Lay Director was stated by Nominations Floor Committee Chairman, Rev. Dr. Walter Tietjen regarding Circuit 11: both from same Circuit; Nevada Vice President and Lay Director from different Circuits: 10 and 20.

As Caucuses prepared to meet, President Newton clarified on CM pp.11-12 that the Regional designations of P, S, and N no longer apply to Hawaii and Nevada. It was also pointed out that a misprint had misplaced Circuit 7. It is still in the Southern Region.

Convention recessed for Caucuses; to return following dinner for the CEF Report.

Following dinner, President Newton reconvened the Convention and introduced Rev. Ted Iverson, President of CNH Church Extension Fund for his report. His narrative report is found in the Convention Manual p.51ff and the CEF Audits are on pages 56ff. Some sample comments of CEF President Iverson’s presentation included: Investors can make prudent choices to invest with CNH CEF. The permit for 2010 to issue loans was granted by LCMS CEF. Debt repayment and economic downturn affect investments and loan grants. Concern for the investor’s ability to fund the reserves has resulted in changes that have been made to protect equity. CEF banking and investing programs have bettered the Fund over the last three years. Disaster Recovery Program initiated. Solvency is crucial.

The Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, was introduced to the Convention with his biography and welcomed to the podium by President Newton.

Humorously, the President applied Acts 19:32 as the first convention recorded in Scripture. He offered congratulations to President Newton on his re-election. His oral report was followed by a DVD presentation. Doctrinal unity is primary. Minor problems today were major before.

Statement of beliefs restated: what we believe, teach and confess. Great unity of belief, while major questions regarding Lord’s Supper, role of women, worship practices, work with other Christians, etc. are still under debate. The DVD video reflected the President’s theme: One Mission-One Message-One People. Taking a line from the musical, “The Music Man,” President Kieschnick indicated that “there is trouble in River City”; however, there is also hope in Christ. The video highlighted ministries of hope in Texas, Wisconsin and Iowa.

Rev. Jim Beyer, Chairman of Floor Committee #1 on Missions, was introduced. Noting that it was Rev. Beyer's birthday, the convention sang "Happy Birthday." He then referenced Convention Business pp.4-7.

Resolution 1-01: "To Organize and Staff for Continuing Facilitative Education in a Post Church World," CB p.4 was presented.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 1-01. The Resolution was adopted.

Resolution 1-02: "To Encourage Revitalization in Our Congregations," CB pp.4-5 was presented.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 1-02. The Resolution was adopted.

Resolution 1-03: "To Express Gratitude for the Work of the MACs (Mission Action Councils) and Encourage Use of MAC Insights and Discoveries," CB pp.5-6 was presented.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 1-03. The Resolution was adopted.

Announcements: Shell leis are available. Questions for President Kieschnick's third portion of his report should be provided to the Chair. The Q & A is May 16, 2009 at 3:15 PM.

President Newton adjourned the Convention until 8 AM Saturday. Corrected directions to Prince of Peace, Fremont, for the Convention Holy Communion Service of Celebration were provided.