

IOWA DISTRICT EAST CONVENTION MINUTES

Session 1: Friday Morning, June 26, 2015

The Thirty-ninth Convention of the Iowa District East at the Marriot Hotel and Convention Center, Cedar Rapids, Iowa opened with Matins Service at 9 a.m. Convention chaplain Rev. David Hansen served as liturgist. District President Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders preached.

Rev. David Hansen, convention chaplain and pastor from the convention host congregation, St John Lutheran Church, Center Point welcomed the delegates and guests to the convention.

Revs. Sean Hansen and Andrew Richards, the Credentials and Excuses Committee, presented their committee's report. As of 9:45 a.m. 84 pastoral delegates and 89 lay delegates were registered for a total of 173 voting delegates with 8 excused ordained and 18 excused commissioned.

Convention Chair District President Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders called the convention to order. He introduced the LCMS 2nd Vice-President Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe, representative of LCMS President Harrison, and convention essayist Rev. Randall Golter.

Chair Saunders introduced his family and also the district staff: Assistant to the President (ATTP) Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild, ATTP Jeffrey Pool, Office Manager Sherry Brendes, Administrative Assistant Pam Krog and Communications/Technology Coordinator Jon Kohlmeier.

Chair Saunders also introduced the District Board of Directors: Rev. Dr. Matthew Rueger, board chair and 1st Vice-president, Rev. Dan Krueger, 2nd Vice-president, Rev. Mark Brase, Secretary, Rev. Peter Hoft, Assistant Secretary, Corey Nuehring, Treasurer, Lowell Schroeder, Assistant Treasurer, Rev. Michael Scudder, David Eastburn, Paul Zoske, Dennis Duwe and Ben Venteicher.

The convention chair entertained a motion to adopt the Convention Agenda. Moved and seconded to adopt the Convention Agenda. Convention Agenda was adopted by voice vote. Chair entertained a motion to adopt the Standing Rules. Moved and seconded to adopt Standing Rules. Standing Rules were adopted by voice vote.

In his **Keynote Address** District President Saunders highlighted the work of Wilhelm Loehe and his sending of missionaries to the United States. For Loehe mission was the church in motion. Loehe identified three incentives for missions: lost souls, community and preaching the resurrection. We too seek the blessings of God in missions as the Church in motion. (A full copy of the President's keynote address is included in the Convention Proceedings.)

Elections Committee Chair Rev. Mitch Otto explained to the assembly the electronic voting process. The assembly practiced electronic voting.

He presented the slate for District President: Rev. Dr. Brian S. Saunders. Moved and seconded to elect Rev. Dr. Saunders District President by acclamation. By consensus the assembly agreed. **Rev. Dr. Saunders was elected by acclamation.**

Rev. Otto read the slate of nominees for First Vice-President: W. Max Mons, Daniel Krueger, Michael Knox, Kris Kincaid, Paul Beisel, Karl Bollhagen, Chris Roepke and Terry Small. The first ballot results were W. Max Mons - 42%, Daniel Krueger -

20%, Michael Knox – 1%, Kris Kincaid – 14%, Paul Beisel – 3%, Karl Bollhagen – 8%, Chris Roepke – 3% and Terry Small – 6%. No candidate received a majority.

Those receiving less than 15% were removed. The second ballot included W. Max Mons and Daniel Krueger. Second ballot results were W. Max Mons – 72% and Daniel Krueger – 28%. **Rev. Max Mons was elected as First Vice-president.**

Rev. Otto presented the slate for Second Vice-President: Matthew Rueger, Daniel Krueger and Michael Scudder. First ballot results were Matthew Rueger – 45%, Daniel Krueger – 36% and Michael Scudder – 19%. No candidate received a majority.

The second ballot for Second Vice-president was: Matthew Rueger and Daniel Krueger. The results of the second ballot for Second Vice-President were: Matthew Rueger – 58% and Daniel Krueger – 41%. **Rev. Dr. Matthew Rueger was elected Second Vice-President.**

Chair Saunders recognized District President Emeritus Rev. Gary Arp and Rev. Dr. Jim Baneck, North Dakota District President. He also announced the Supreme Court's decision approving "same-sex marriage."

Corey Nuehring, district treasurer, thanked the district staff for their cooperation and help. He reviewed the Treasurer's Report in the workbook including the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Activities, Statement of Cash Flows, Loans Payable and Annual Salaries.

Rev. Max Mons, chair of Floor Committee 1: Administration and Finance, presented **Overture #1.01: To Make Geographical Adjustment to Circuits.** Rev. Mark Leckband read the overture. The committee moved adoption. With no discussion, the overture was adopted by 99% majority.

The committee presented **Overture #1.02: To Protect IDE representation in LCMS Elections** and moved adoption. With no discussion, the overture was adopted by 89% majority.

The committee presented **Overture #1.03: To Insure That Pastors and Other Workers Have Adequate Compensation and Sufficient Benefits** and moved adoption. With no discussion the overture was adopted by 91% majority.

The committee presented **Overture #1.04: To Reexamine and Increase Direct IDE Financial Support of Synod** and moved adoption. Following discussion, moved and seconded to refer Overture 1.04 back to the committee for rewording from insights of the discussion. The overture was returned to the committee with a 76% majority.

By consensus, the agenda was adjusted and the convention broke at 11:30 a.m. for lunch. Chaplain Hansen offered the meal prayer.

The Ministers of Religion-Commissioned caucused during the break to select an Advisory Delegate-Commissioned and Alternate for the 2016 Synod Convention.

Session 2: Friday afternoon, June 26, 2015

Chaplain Hansen opened the session with Daily Prayer for Noon.

Credentials committee reported 180 delegates for this session.

Balloting continued for Officers, Board of Directors and elected committees. Rev. Otto presented the slate for Secretary: Mark Brase and Jesse Cearlock. The results of the balloting were Mark Brase – 71% and Jesse Cearlock – 29%. **Rev. Mark Brase was elected secretary.**

Rev. Otto presented the slate for Treasurer: Corey Nuehring. Moved and seconded to elect by acclamation. Motion passed. **Corey Nuehring was elected Treasurer.**

The slate for Board of Directors-Ordained was Andrew Gray, Michael Knox, Steven Rasmussen and Michael Scudder. The first ballot results were Andrew Gray – 15%, Michael Knox – 39%, Steven Rasmussen – 18% and Michael Scudder – 26%. Second ballot results were Michael Knox – 44%, Steven Rasmussen - 19% and Michael Scudder – 36%. Third ballot results were Michael Knox – 52% and Michael Scudder – 47%. **Rev. Michael Knox was elected to the Board of Directors-Ordained.**

The slate for Board of Directors-Lay were Darin Osland, James Swales and Paul Zoske. First ballot results were Darin Osland – 84 votes, James Swales – 119 votes and Paul Zoske – 114 votes. **James Swales and Paul Zoske were elected to the Board of Directors – Lay.**

Rev. Otto presented the slate for the Committee of Constitution Review-Ordained: Travis Berg, Andrew Gray and Troy Peperkorn. First ballot results were Travis Berg – 30%, Andrew Gray – 40% and Troy Peperkorn – 28%. Second ballot results were Travis Berg – 42% and Andrew Gray – 54%. **Rev. Andrew Gray was elected to the Committee of Constitution Review – Ordained.**

The slate for the Committee of Constitution Review – Lay was presented: Cheri Cummings. Moved and seconded to elect by acclamation. **Cheri Cummings was elected to the Committee of Constitution Review – Lay.**

Rev. Otto presented the slate for the Nominations Committee-Ordained: Kris Kincaid, Stephen Preus and Terry Small. Results of balloting were Kris Kincaid – 126 votes, Stephen Preus – 119 votes and Terry Small – 97 votes. **Revs. Kris Kincaid and Stephen Preus were elected to the Nominations Committee.**

The slate for Nominations Committee – Commissioned were presented: Andy Armbrrecht and Stephen Woolery. Results were Andy Armbrrecht – 60% and Stephen Woolery – 40%. **Andy Armbrrecht was elected to the Nominations Committee-Commissioned.**

Rev. Otto presented the slate for Nominations Committee - Lay: Carl Egger, Kurt Flathers and Gerald Muench. Results were Carl Egger – 126 votes, Kurt Flathers – 103 votes and Gerald Muench – 98 votes. **Carl Egger and Kurt Flathers were elected to the Nominations Committee-Lay.**

Having completed their work, the Election Committee was dismissed with thanks.

Convention chair Saunders introduced convention essayist, Rev. Randy Golter, who serves as Special Assistant to the President, and leads the Synod in the coordination and planning of the 2017 Reformation 500th anniversary celebration and leads the initiative called “Preach the Word.” Part One of his presentation ***Witness, Mercy, Life Together: The Church in Motion*** was entitled ***Let’s Talk about the Church***. Rev. Golter highlighted the collapsing culture and then explored the Spirit’s use of the word “Church” in the Bible. The Church is a heavenly creation. It is found where His Voice, Water and Blood are located and gathers a holy people to Himself. The Church exists because God causes it to be so. Jesus lives, so does the Church. How glorious and steeling!

The Ministers of Religion-Ordained caucused during the break to select an Advisory Delegate and Alternate for the 2016 Synod Convention.

After a short break, Rev. Golter continued his presentation with Part II ***The Church in Motion: Witness***. The Church's witness (in preaching, hymnody and service to the neighbor) is of Christ, as He bears witness to Himself through the use of His Church by the Word and Sacraments, and in sacrificial love to neighbor. The Church's witness must be—and is—seen in her love for and abiding with sinners. The Lord through His Church reigns over the world by the giving of Himself through His Body—the Church—in love through word and deed.

Rev. Ronnie Koch, chair of Floor Committee Two: Theology and Missions presented **Overture #2.01: To Establish Promote and Support the Iowa District East Missions Sunday**. Rev. Jeff Pautz read the overture. A friendly amendment added Lutheran Family Services to the list of IDE missions. The committee moved adoption. Overture was adopted by 85% majority.

The committee presented **Overture #2.02: To Appoint a Task Force to Review and Evaluate the Synod's Dispute Resolution Process** and moved adoption. By friendly amendment, 1993 was changed to 1992. After further discussion, the overture was adopted by a 91% majority.

The committee presented **Overture #2.03: To Publicize and Promote the Triennial Circuit Convocations** and moved adoption. With no discussion, the overture was adopted by 83% majority.

Moved and seconded that the convention consider **Memorial #2.04: Against the Military Draft of Women** as an overture. The motion was discussed. Moved to call the question. Motion passed by 89% majority. The motion to consider Memorial #2.04 carried by 56% majority.

Overture #2.04: Against the Military Draft of Women was read by the committee. Much discussion followed. Moved and seconded to refer the overture to a committee appointed by the chair to review and amend the overture to be returned to the assembly for consideration. Motion passed by 66% majority.

Rev. David Rempfer delivered greetings from the LWML. He read a letter from IED LWML President Joan Berquist in which she reminded the assembly of the LWML's work and support of missions through LWML mites.

Military Chaplain Rev. Michael Moreno, Project Manager, Operation Barnabas showed a video inviting the congregations of IDE to participate in Project Barnabas. He encouraged congregations to attend an upcoming informational meeting.

Dick Hoelz, IDE LLL president, offered greetings to the assembly. He outlined the history of the LLL and their mission work.

Rev. Bob Riggert from LCEF greeted the group. He reviewed some of the LCEF's programs.

Andy Locke, representing Concordia University-Wisconsin, greeted the convention and showed a video promoting the university.

Chaplain Hansen closed the session with the Nunc Dimittis and Luther's Evening Prayer. The convention recessed at 5:41 p.m. and will reconvene at 8:00 a.m.

Session 3: Saturday morning, June 27, 2015

Chaplain Hansen opened the session with Daily Prayer Morning.

Rev. Golter continued the convention essay with Part III ***The Church in Motion: Mercy***. The justified life of the baptized shows itself in love toward neighbor.

Justification is a past and ongoing reality. The justified life of the baptized cannot but be invested in the neighbor, as Christ is in the believer. The Ten Commandments show forth—and are—the shape of baptized life. A freed, cleansed conscience is owned only by the one who is justified by grace through faith in Christ Jesus, worked by the Holy Spirit. Works done with a joyous, selfless spirit (“Spiritual works) cannot but cause an inquiry by some, an aroma of life in the midst of the smell of death in this “present evil age.” Selfish works smell foul to God and the neighbor, and bury Christ altogether. Deeds of mercy know not the receiver. Mercy then is not done in order to preach the Gospel; mercy is done and the Gospel is preached, for it is the justified life of the baptized.

The Convention Minutes Review Committee of Revs. Jonathan Crawford and Brad Brown recommended the minutes be accepted. Moved and seconded to approve Session 1 and 2 Minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Convention chair Saunders introduced Second Vice-President Wohlrabe. On behalf of President Harrison he offered greetings and presented the LCMS President’s Report. He led a Bible study on Matthew 16:13-28 entitled *On This Rock* which is the theme for the 2016 LCMS Synod Convention. The assembly viewed a video prepared by the President’s Office on the challenges of the world and the Synod’s work in many areas of witness, mercy and life together.

After a short break, Vice-President Wohlrabe presented Part 2 of the President’s Report. He provided an overview of the LCMS including comments on the restructuring of Synod, the work of the boards, funding challenges, financial progress, demographics, missions, the work with other Lutheran church bodies, District visitations, doctrinal issues of close(d) communion and worship, CCM decisions, and Concordia University System. A question and answer session followed his presentation.

The Salary Study Committee Chair Rev. Paul Nus introduced the committee members: Jim Swales, Bill Sitas and ex-officio Sherry Brendes. He presented the proposed **Salary Guidelines** for Pastors and Teacher/Parish Workers. Moved and seconded to amend the guidelines to move “Earned PHD” to the “7% of salary” line in the “Advanced Degree” chart. Following discussion, the guidelines were amended by a 73% majority. The committee moved adoption. The guidelines were approved as amended by 88% majority. The committee conducted a straw poll on use of the guidelines: Does your congregation make use of the salary guidelines? 1. At or close to the guidelines – 57%; 2. Below the guidelines – 32%; 3. Don’t know – 6%

Secretary Brase presented the **Bylaws Resolution 1: To Amend the IDE Bylaws with Recommended Changes**. Adoption was moved. Following discussion, the resolution was adopted and bylaws amended by 88% majority.

Bylaws Resolution 2: To Amend the IDE Bylaws’ Committee Organization was presented. Adoption was moved. Following discussion, the resolution was adopted and the bylaws amended by 90% majority.

The Secretary presented **Articles Resolution: To Adopt the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod—Iowa District East**. Moved and seconded to amend the proposed Articles of Incorporation by striking Article VIII and renumbering the remaining articles. The amendment was declined by 81% majority. Question was called. The assembly chose

to end debate by 90% majority. The Articles of Incorporation were revised and amended by 86% majority.

Chaplain Hansen closed with the meal prayer. The convention broke for lunch from 12:05 to 1:30 p.m.

Session 4: Saturday afternoon, June 27, 2015

Chaplain Hansen opened the session with Daily Prayer Noon.

Rev. Golter continued his presentation with Part IV **The Church in Motion: Life Together**. Church is a corporate affair, life-together with Him and with those who confess the same thing, and ever seeking those yet to be brought to faith. Isolated individual believers or congregations—determined to remain so—deny their baptismal identity and deprive themselves of the joyful freedom to live sacrificially for others within and outside the church. The Church though hit from all sides—inside and out—remains His own possession and tool for all His work. She's been given—as a pure and ongoing gift—the Holy Scriptures, the Sacraments, and the Preaching Office, for her strength, work and protection. This is all quite stunning and marvelous, as she lives by faith alone in Him even in the midst of threat.

The Convention Minutes Review Committee recommended the approval of the minutes from Session 3. Moved and seconded to approve Session 3 minutes as printed. Motion carried. Having completed their work, they were dismissed with thanks.

Iowa District East supported missions each gave a report. Rev. Andrew Richard from St. Silas, North Liberty reviewed the history of St. Silas and the process of planting a church. The Campus Ministry report was given by Revs. Mons and Wegener, who thanked the district congregations for their support and reviewed their activities. Rev. Tim Eckert reported on Deaf Ministry, why it is important and what it does in communicating the Gospel. He thanked the district congregations for the support. University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinic (UIHC) Chaplain Rev. Michael Musick thanked the assembly for the expansion of the current chaplaincy and spoke of his work at UIHC. The Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca report was given by Daniel Sanchez, executive director, who spoke of the improvements and activities at camp. He encouraged delegates to fill out the IDE Youth Committee – Youth Leader Retreat Survey. He thanked the district congregations for their support. Rev. David Anderson showed pictures and explained the mission of Eastside Mission through summer and after school programs as well as worship. Rev. Dan Johnson from the Office of International Mission brought greetings from Eurasia and shared pictures from his work in the area.

The Chair reviewed the list of **Circuit Visitors** elected at Circuit Forums as follows: BENTON - Rev. Mark Leckband – St. Mark, Garrison; CEDAR RAPIDS North - Rev. David Hansen – St. John, Center Point; CEDAR RAPIDS South - Rev. Mitch Otto – Prince of Peace, Coralville (elected by caucus); CLINTON - Rev. Steven Anderson – Immanuel, Grand Mound; DAVENPORT - Rev. Michael Vokt - Trinity, Davenport; DUBUQUE - Rev. Dr. Kristian Kincaid - Our Redeemer, Dubuque; ELDORA - Rev. Karl Bollhagen - Trinity, Hampton; MARSHALLTOWN - Rev. Fred Berry – Trinity, Marshalltown; MT. PLEASANT - Rev. Dr. Chris Hinkle - St. Paul, Wapello; ST. ANSGAR - Rev. Byron Northwick – Immanuel/St. John, St. Ansgar/Osage; WATERLOO - Rev. John Wegener - College Hill, Cedar Falls; WESTGATE - Rev. Ronnie Koch - St.

Paul, Fredericksburg and WILLIAMSBURG - Rev. Gary Sears - Trinity, Conroy. The assembly voted by voice to ratify the election. Visitors stand elected.

Convention Chair entertained a motion to destroy the Presidium Nominating Ballots. Moved and seconded to destroy the Presidium Nominating Ballots. Motion carried.

Rev. Max Mons, chair of floor committee 1 presented **Overture 1-04A: To Reexamine and Increase Direct IDE Financial Support of Synod.** Rev. Mark Leckband read the overture and moved adoption. With no discussion, the assembly voted electronically. The resolution was adopted by 62% majority. Having completed their work, they were dismissed with thanks.

Rev. Ronnie Koch, chair of floor committee 2 presented **Overture 2-04A To Reaffirm Synod's Position on Women and the Draft.** Rev. Jeff Pautz read the overture and moved adoption. Moved to consider an alternate overture. The assembly voted to consider the alternate. The motion to consider the alternate overture was declined by 57% majority. Discussion continued on Overture 2-04A.

Orders of the day required a vote to continue debate or move on with the orders of the day. The assembly desired to close the debate and voted on Overture 2-04A. The overture did not pass by 1%. Having completed their work, the committee was dismissed with thanks.

Committee on Credentials/Excuses Chair Sean Hansen presented the closing credentials and excuses report. The convention was attended by 180 delegates – 86 pastoral and 94 lay. 8 pastors and 18 commissioned workers were excused.

Daniel Q. Johnson, in absentia, and Gilbert Meseke were recognized for 60 years of service as pastors. Other anniversaries were recognized with certificates.

The closing Vespers Memorial service remembered those church workers of IDE who had been called to eternal glory in the last triennium: Revs. Garland Gotoski, Frederick Wood, Randolph Nord. Chaplain Hansen served as liturgist and Rev. Wohlrabe proclaimed the message. LCMS 2nd Vice-President Rev. Dr. Wohlrabe installed Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders as District President of Iowa District East of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. President Saunders then installed the Vice-Presidents, Circuit Visitors and Board of Directors. The convention concluded at 4:45 p.m.

Session 4 Minutes were reviewed and approved by the IDE Board of Directors on July 21, 2015.

Respectively submitted,
Rev. Mark Brase, Iowa District East Secretary
Rev. Peter Hoft, Assistant Secretary