



Monday Afternoon, June 11, 2018

Convention activities began at Grace Lutheran Church in Glendale, Arizona with an opening communion service at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Kirk Massey, Jr. of The Church of the Open Bible, Whiteriver, Arizona and Shepherd in the Pines, McNary, Arizona served as the liturgist. Pastor Adam Horneber of Immanuel, Lakeside, Arizona, served as the preacher. Pastor Horneber's sermon, based on Ephesians 1:3-14, was themed, "Let Us praise the Triune God for His Glorious Grace!" The offerings given totaled \$2,215.63, to be designated at the convention.

At 1:00 p.m., at the Embassy Suites in Scottsdale, Arizona, District President Jon Buchholz, called the 33rd biennial convention of the Arizona-California District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) to order in the name of the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

District Secretary Steven Gabb gave an announcement concerning some housekeeping items.

The presenter for Floor Committee # 6 (District President's Report), Teacher Jonathan Plocher, presented Resolution 2018-06-01 (Called Worker District Membership). It was moved and supported to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted. The called workers accepted into district membership include: Pastors Paul Kolander, Timothy Patoka, and Luther Zuberbier; Teachers Jacob Anderson, Matthew Ivan, Kyle Melso, Jacob Rothe, Joshua Severeid, Bryan Walkley, and Luke Zeamer; and Staff Minister Stephen Pankow.

The chairman of the District Nominating Committee, Pastor Joshua Stahmann, presented Resolution 2018-06-02 (Reception of New Congregation into District Membership). It was moved and supported to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted. The new congregation accepted into district and synod membership was Living Water, Yuba City, California.

The chairman of the District Nominating Committee, Pastor Joshua Stahmann, presented Resolution 2018-06-03 [Additional Elected Position for the District Mission Board (DMB)]. It was moved and supported to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted. The new DMB member will be elected at this convention.

The chairman of the Elections Committee, Pastor Joshua Stahmann, explained the online elections process, including a test ballot.

President Buchholz yielded the chair to the district first vice-president, Pastor David Clark, for the District President's report. President Buchholz read and commented periodically on his report, which is in the convention proceedings. As a part of his report, President Buchholz read the names of called workers in our district who had joined the Lord in heavenly glory since the 2016 District Convention. The body sang two stanzas of "Jerusalem, Thou City Fair and High." It was moved and seconded to thank President Buchholz for his report. The motion carried.

President Buchholz took up the chair again.

Elections Chairman Pastor Joshua Stahmann came forward for elections. Pastor Stahmann announced that the nomination ballot for the office of district president is open. The delegates submitted nominations.

President Buchholz introduced keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Mark A. Paustian (Professor, Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota) to begin his presentation entitled, "Communicating Christ in the 21st Century." He was thanked with an applause for his presentation.

President Buchholz announced that each circuit will meet prior to the break in order to meet the pastors who are nominated for the position of circuit pastor for their respective circuits. The delegates were dismissed to their circuit meetings at 2:27 p.m., after which a break was taken.

At 2:43 p.m., President Buchholz called the convention back into session.

Pastor Stahmann presented the ballot for the election of district president. The candidates are Pastor Jon Buchholz (incumbent), Pastor David Clark, Pastor Ross Else, and Pastor Adam Mueller. Electronic ballots were cast.

WELS first vice president Pastor James Huebner – parish pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI – was introduced and came forward to address the convention. Pastor Huebner brought greetings from the synod presidium. He mentioned that there is no formal synod presidium report, but that all pertinent information is contained in other resources that are already a part of our convention proceedings. Pastor Huebner offered words of encouragement and thanks to the delegates (specifically addressing lay members and called workers) for their faithful service to the Lord and His people. Pastor Huebner was thanked for his report.

Mr. Steve Hansen, the Arizona-California Synodical Council Lay Representative, presented the Synodical Council report. A PowerPoint presentation was used, which is in the district convention files. Mr. Hansen was thanked for his report.

Pastor Stahmann came forward for elections to announce that Pastor Jon Buchholz had been reelected to serve as district president. Nominations were taken electronically for the first vice president position.

President Buchholz thanked the delegates for the opportunity to serve and asked for the prayers of the delegates for his work.

President Buchholz announced that Pastor Snowden Sims was elected Michigan District President.

Secretary Gabb announced that the Hospitality Suite is open for the delegates.

Dr. Mark Paustian came forward and presented part two of his keynote address. Following some discussion, he was thanked for his presentation.

Pastor Stahmann presented the nominations for first vice president: Pastor David Clark, Pastor Aaron Boehm, and Pastor Steven Gabb. Ballots were cast electronically.

Rev. Wayne Uhlhorn came forward to present on behalf of WELS Home Missions (BHM), WELS World Missions (BWM), and WELS Joint Mission Council (JMC). He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Stahmann came forward for elections and announced that Pastor David Clark had been elected first vice president. Nominations were opened and made electronically for second vice president.

Rev. Daniel Rautenberg came forward to present on behalf of Native American Missions. He was thanked for his report.

Rev. Howard Mohlke came forward to present on behalf of Apache Christian Training School (ACTS). President Buchholz asked for all who are serving or who have served on the Native American mission field at some point in their ministry to please stand. The body gave them a round of applause. Pastor Mohlke was thanked for his report.

Pastor Stahmann presented the nominations for second vice president: Pastor Aaron Boehm, Pastor Steven Gabb, and Pastor Adam Mueller. Ballots were cast electronically.

Pastor James Werner came forward to present the district's Travel Equalization policy, which is being used for the first time this convention (it was adopted at the previous district convention in 2016). He explained the policy.

Pastor Stahmann came forward for elections and announced that Pastor Aaron Boehm had been reelected second vice president.

Various announcements were made to the delegates.

Pastor Joseph Dietrich (Our Savior, Bylas, Arizona) led the evening devotion. The theme of the devotion, based on 1 Corinthians 3:10-13a, was, "Our Great Heritage: Founded on Christ."

At 5:25 p.m. The delegates proceeded to floor committee meetings, dinner, and an evening of fellowship.

Tuesday Morning, June 12, 2018

At 8:30 a.m., the convention was called to order by District President Jon Buchholz.

Pastor Howard Mohlke led the opening devotion. The theme of the devotion, based on Psalm 119:89-96 was, "Our Great Heritage: Revealed in the Inerrant Word."

A few announcements were made.

Elections Chairman Pastor Joshua Stahmann came forward for elections. Pastor Stahmann announced that the nomination ballot for the office of district secretary is open. He also announced that the nominations ballot for designating the opening service offering (\$2,215.63) is also open. The delegates submitted nominations.

Dr. Mark Paustian came forward and presented part three of his keynote address. He was thanked for his presentation.

Pastor Stahmann presented the nominations for the designation of the opening service offering: Apache 125th Anniversary, Apache Christian Training School (ACTS), Martin Luther College (MLC) Tuition Assistance, and WELS World Missions. Ballots were cast electronically.

Pastor Stahmann presented the nominations for district secretary: Pastor Steven Gabb, Staff Minister Phillip Bischoff, Pastor Ross Else, and Pastor Daniel Schroeder. Ballots were cast electronically.

Announcements were made and a break was taken at 10:02 a.m.

President Buchholz called the session to order again at 10:17 a.m.

Pastor Steven Hillmer, Arizona-California District Mission Board (DMB) Chairman, came forward to present his report. He recognized the service of Pastor Matt Vogt (former DMB chairman, now Mission Counselor), Pastor Paul Mueller (for service on the DMB), and Pastor Peter Kruschel (retired Mission Counselor). Pastor Hillmer referenced his written report in the district convention files and showed a PowerPoint to share general information about the work of WELS Board for Home Missions. He also spoke specifically about mission activity in our district. The District Mission Board members were asked to stand. District President Buchholz thanked Pastor Hillmer for his report.

Pastor Michael Otterstatter came forward to present on WELS Ministerial Education (BME) and shared a video. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Stahmann came forward for elections and announced that Pastor Steven Gabb had been reelected district secretary.

Pastor Stahmann also announced a runoff for the opening service offering designation: Apache 125th Anniversary and Apache Christian Training School (ACTS). Ballots were cast electronically.

President Buchholz yielded the chair to the district first vice-president, Pastor David Clark.

Mr. Jim Holm came forward to present on WELS Foundation & WELS Investment Funds. He was thanked for his report.

The Chair pointed the delegates to the WELS Christian Aid and Relief report on the convention webpage and in the convention Dropbox.

President Dr. Dan Johnson of Wisconsin Lutheran College came forward and presented a report. He was thanked for his report.

Mr. Kurt Rosenbaum presented on Arizona Lutheran Academy. He was thanked for his report.

Mr. Steven Rosenbaum presented on California Lutheran High School (CLHS). He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Joshua Stahmann announced that Apache 125 was selected by the delegates to receive the opening service offering (\$2,215.63). Pastor Stahmann then introduced the various elections and candidates for district offices. It was moved and seconded to accept the slate of candidates. The motion carried. The delegates cast votes electronically.

Teacher Darrell Dobberpuhl presented on East Fork Lutheran High School. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Greg Bork presented on Apostles Lutheran High School. He was thanked him for his report.

Pastor Jason Schmidt, District Youth Discipleship Chairman, came forward to present on both Adult and Youth Discipleship. He was thanked for his report.

A few announcements were made, and the delegates broke for lunch at 11:53 a.m.

Tuesday Afternoon, June 14, 2016

The delegates reconvened after lunch at 1:30 p.m.

District President Buchholz asked District Vice Presidents Clark and Boehm to stand, acknowledging and thanking them for their excellent work steering the flow of the convention.

Dr. Mark Paustian came forward to conclude his keynote address. The delegates thanked Dr. Paustian with a round of applause.

Pastor Stahmann came forward to report elections results. This concludes the electronic elections for the convention. Circuit Pastor elections will be carried out by each circuit at a later time in the convention.

President Buchholz introduced Mr. Tom Plitzuweit (Associate Director for WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools) to present on WELS Congregational Services, including updates on the various areas of ministry under Congregational Services. He showed a trailer for the fourth and final Evangelism Commission movie scheduled to be released in August 2018. He informed the delegates of a variety of resources available to congregations and schools. He was thanked for his report.

District President Buchholz announced that each circuit will meet prior to the break for Circuit Pastor elections. The delegates were dismissed to their circuit meetings at 3:21 p.m., after which a break was taken

At 3:45 p.m., President Buchholz called the convention back into session.

A couple of announcements were made.

Pastor John Derme, District Special Ministries Chairman, came forward to present on Special Ministries. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Mark Schewe, District Worship Chairman, came forward to present on Worship. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Paul Mueller presented on the Ministry of Christian Giving. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor David Clark (1st Vice President of the district) presented on the District Board of Support. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Josh Stahmann presented on the District Constitution Committee. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Scott Martz presented for Floor Committee # 4: Congregational Services. He referred to and read from the floor committee report. He was thanked for his report.

Teacher Adam Bohl came forward as presenter for Floor Committee # 2: Home Missions. He read Resolution 2018-02-01 (Thanksgiving for Pastor Peter Kruschel). It was moved and supported to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Bohl read Resolution 2018-02-02 (Acknowledgement of Partners in Home Missions). It was moved and supported to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Bohl read Resolution 2018-02-03 (Increase in District Assessment). It was moved and supported to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted. It was moved and supported to thank Floor Committee # 2 for their work. The motion carried.

Teacher Jonathan Plocher came forward as presenter for Floor Committee # 6: District President's Report. He read Resolution 2018-06-04 (Proposed Amendment to the WELS Bylaws Limiting the Terms of Office for District Presidents and Vice Presidents). It was moved and supported to adopt the resolution. There was some discussion on the matter as delegates sought to understand the rationale behind the resolution, as well as its necessity and impact. The resolution was defeated. It was moved and supported to thank Floor Committee # 6 for their work. The motion carried.

Pastor Lincoln Albrecht came forward as presenter for Floor Committee # 3: Ministerial Education. He gave a verbal report. No written report was provided. It was moved and supported to thank Floor Committee # 3 for their work. The motion carried.

Pastor Stahmann presented elections results.

Pastor Paul Meitner came forward to talk about the District Pastors' Conference and the option of turning that conference into a Satellite Summer Quarter by *Grow In Grace* (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary).

Several announcements were made.

At 4:49 p.m., Pastor Seth Georgson led the afternoon devotion. Based on Acts 22:12-16 and Luke 22:19-20, the theme of the devotion was, "Our Great: Assured Sinners by the Sacraments."

At 5:06 p.m., the convention broke for recess until 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 13.

Wednesday Morning, June 13, 2016

At 8:30 a.m., the convention was called to order by District President Jon Buchholz.

Pastor Daniel Rautenberg led the opening devotion worship. The theme of the devotion service was, "Our Great Heritage: Given to Us, that We May Share It" Pastor Rautenberg's devotion was based on Acts 1:7-8.

A few announcements were made.

Pastor Adam Mueller came forward to present on the Hymnal Project. He was thanked for his report.

Pastor Stahmann presented the final report for the Elections Committee, referring the delegates to his report on the district website. It was moved and supported to thank Pastor Stahmann and the Elections Committee for their work. The motion carried.

Pastor Justin Gran came forward as presenter for Floor Committee # 1: World Missions. He gave a verbal report. No written report was provided. It was moved and supported to thank Floor Committee # 1 for their work. The motion carried.

Pastor James Winterstein came forward as presenter for Floor Committee # 5: Administration. He read Resolution 2018-05-01 (Resolution concerning the support of Michigan Lutheran Seminary). It was moved and supported to adopt the resolution. A slight wording change was suggested from the floor and accepted by the presenter (the final version of this resolution in the convention proceedings reflects this change). The resolution was adopted.

Pastor Winterstein read Resolution 2018-05-02 (Resolution Encouraging the Education of the Staff Ministry Program). It was moved and supported to adopt the resolution. A slight wording change was suggested from the floor and accepted by the presenter (the final version of this resolution in the convention proceedings reflects this change). The resolution was adopted.

Pastor Winterstein read Resolution 2018-05-03 (Resolution encouraging recruitment for the pastoral ministry.). It was moved and supported to adopt the resolution. A slight wording change was suggested from the floor and accepted by the presenter (the final version of this resolution in the convention proceedings reflects this change). The resolution was adopted.

Pastor Winterstein read Resolution 2018-05-04 (Compensation Review Committee). It was moved and supported to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted. It was moved and supported to thank Floor Committee # 5 for their work. The motion carried.

A video from WELS Christian Aid and Relief was played.

Mr. John Campbell presented the Registration and Excuses Committee report. It was moved and seconded to accept the report. Pastor Daniel Thao and Pastor Daniel Schaller were removed from the list because they are no longer part of the district. The motion carried. It was moved and seconded to thank the Registrations and Excuses Committee. The motion carried.

Pastor Stahmann spoke as the District Nominating Committee Chairman. He presented the list of delegates to the 2019 Synod Convention. The list was referenced in the convention Dropbox folder. It was moved and seconded to accept the slate of delegates as presented. The motion carried.

Pastor Lincoln Albrecht came forward once again as presenter for Floor Committee # 3: Ministerial Education. He read Resolution 2018-03-01 (Ministerial Education Committee). It was moved and supported to adopt the resolution. The resolution was adopted. Floor Committee # 3 was thanked for their work.

The following motion of thanks was made: The convention thanks those who served us as worship leaders; the keynote speaker, Professor Mark Paustian; committee chairman, reporters, and members; the district presidium and all those responsible for the smooth running of the 2018 biennial convention; Lynnette Stahmann who served in the office; the Ladies Aid from Grace-Glendale for preparing the sack lunches on Monday; Holy Cross-Tucson, Shepherd of the Hills-Tucson, Cross of Glory-Vistancia, and Eastfork Lutheran School for donating the use and operation of the audio and video equipment; and the staff of the Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale for their help in making this a successful convention. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

There was a motion from the floor to adjourn. It was seconded. The motion carried.

At 9:56 a.m., District President Jon Buchholz declared the 33rd biennial convention of the Arizona-California District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod closed in the name of the triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

A closing devotion service followed at 10:03 a.m. Pastor David Bostedt served as the worship leader. The theme of his devotion, based on Revelation 2:8-11, was “Our Great Heritage: Culminating in our Heavenly Home.” Newly elected district presidium members were installed into their offices during the service.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven P. Gabb". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Pastor Steven P. Gabb
Arizona-California District Secretary