

THE FIFTY-SECOND BIENNIAL CONVENTION
THE MINNESOTA DISTRICT OF WELS

Martin Luther College
June 7-9, 2022

SESSION ONE

- OPENING SERVICE The Fifty-second Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod opened with a communion service at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at the Chapel of the Christ on the campus of Martin Luther College in New Ulm. Pastor John Boeder served as the presiding minister. President Dennis Klatt delivered the sermon based on Colossians 4:2-6 with the theme When God Opens a Door, Proclaim Christ. The offering totaled \$1624. Prof. Craig Hirschmann served as the organist.
- OPENING President Dennis Klatt opened the convention in the name of the Triune God at 11:00 a.m.
- COMMITTEE 1 Pastor Brian Roloff, from the Credentials and Membership Committee #1, presented his report. Resolution #1 regarding credentials was adopted.
- GREETING MLC Vice President for Mission Advancement Mark Maurice welcomed the delegates to the campus of Martin Luther College.
- COMMITTEE 16 First Vice President Wayne Schoch reported for the Convention Steering Committee.
- COMMITTEE 6 Pastor Jeff Bovee reported for Media Relations, Committee #6.
- COMMITTEE 14 Pastor John Boeder reported for Committee 14, Courtesy and Printing.
- COMMITTEE 15 Second Vice President Mat Pfeifer reported for the Copy Review Committee.
- COMMITTEE 3 Pastor Henry Koch reported for the Nomination Committee. He described the biographies available for the nominees on the ballot.
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT District President Dennis Klatt presented his report to the Minnesota District.
- ELECTIONS Elections Chair, Pastor Peter Sternberg, shared information regarding our voting procedure for electing district officials.

CLOSING

Announcements were shared and session 1 closed at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene DeVries, Secretary

SESSION TWO

DEVOTION	Session 2 of the Fifty-second Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District opened at 1:30 p.m. with a devotion led by Pastor David Barkow, who reminded us that as we proclaim Christ, we do so with lips cleansed by God's grace.
MINUTES	Secretary Eugene DeVries read the minutes of Session 1. We made one correction.
ELECTIONS	Elections chair Pastor Peter Sternberg directed us to the election ballot for district president. The ballot contains five names: David Barkow, Jeffrey Bovee, Dennis Klatt (incumbent), Wayne Schoch, and William Werth.
PRESENTATION	MLC Professor Luke Thompson presented the first part of "Open Doors for a Closed Culture"
ELECTIONS	Elections chair Peter Sternberg announced that Pastor Dennis Klatt has been reelected as District President.
WELS REPORT	WELS First VP Pastor James Huebner shared a greeting and encouragement from the leaders of our synod.
HOME MISSIONS	Pastor Steven Waldschmidt gave a presentation from WELS Home Missions.
ELECTIONS	Elections chair Peter Sternberg directed us to the election ballot for 1st Vice President. The ballot contains three names: David Barkow, Jeffrey Bovee, and Wayne Schoch (incumbent).
NOMINATIONS	Pastor Henry Koch presented the list of delegates the 2023 synod convention. It was moved, seconded, and adopted to approve this list.
OFFERING	Offering was designated for the District Scholarship Fund.
ELECTIONS	Pastor Peter Sternberg announced that Pastor Wayne Schoch has won reelection as First Vice President.
CLOSING	Announcements were made and Pastor David Barkow closed the session with prayer at 4:47 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene DeVries, Secretary

SESSION THREE

DEVOTION	Session 3 of the Fifty-second Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District opened at 8:30 a.m. with a devotion led by Pastor Johann Caauwe. Based on Luke 24:45-48 he encouraged us to proclaim Christ with enlightened minds.
MINUTES	Minutes of Session 1 were approved. Minutes of Session 2 were read by Secretary Eugene DeVries and approved as read.
ELECTIONS	Elections chair Peter Sternberg directed the convention to the Nomination Ballot for 2nd Vice President.
LIMA	Pastor Brian Kom reported for Lutheran Institutional Ministries.
GRACE IN ACTION	Pastor Don Sutton described how Grace in Action helps pastors and congregations improve their ministries.
ELECTIONS	Elections chair Peter Sternberg announced that the ballot for 2nd VP contains three names: David Barkow, Jeffrey Bovee, and Mathew Pfeifer (incumbent).
VIDEO	The WELS Home Missions video described the initiative to start 100 new missions in 10 years.
ELECTIONS	Elections chair Peter Sternberg announced that Pastor Mathew Pfeifer has been elected as 2nd Vice President.
PRESENTATION	Professor Luke Thompson presented part 2 of “Open Doors for a Closed Culture”
ELECTIONS	Elections chair Peter Sternberg announced that the ballot for District Secretary contains four names: Pastor Eugene DeVries (incumbent), Pastor Nathanael Scharf, Pastor Peter Sternberg, Mr. Michael Vlieger.
ELECTIONS	After a brief recess, Elections chair Peter Sternberg announced that Pastor Eugene DeVries has been elected as District Secretary. Pastor Sternberg explained the general ballot for remaining district positions.
MLC	President Rich Gurgel gave the report from Martin Luther College with a video explaining MLC’s purpose and mission.
LUTHERAN SCHOOLS	Lutheran Schools Coordinator Mr. David Gartner reported from the Commission on Lutheran Schools.

DISCIPLESHIP	Pastor Matt Ewart reported for the Commission on Discipleship.
EVANGELISM	Pastor Stephen Meyer reported for the Commission on Evangelism.
WORSHIP	Pastor Joel Gawrisch reported for the Commission on Worship.
CLOSING	Announcements were shared and Pastor Caauwe closed session three with prayer at 12:09.

Respectfully submitted,
Eugene DeVries, Secretary

SESSION FOUR

DEVOTION	At 1:30 p.m., Pastor Bill Werth opened Session four of the Fifty-second biennial Convention of the Minnesota District. His devotion was based on Ezekiel 3:1-11. He encouraged the convention to proclaim Christ whether people listen or not.
MINUTES	Minutes from Session 3 were read and approved.
ELECTIONS	Pastor Peter Sternberg read the report from Committee 5, Elections. It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept their report.
MVL	Mr. Tim Plath gave a report from Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School.
SCLA	Ms. Anna Biedenbender gave a report from St. Croix Lutheran Academy.
WEST LHS	Mr. David Gartner reported on behalf of West Lutheran High School.
WLC	Pastor Wayne Shevey, showed a video and gave a report for Wisconsin Lutheran College.
WELS FOUNDATION/ WELS INVESTMENT	Pastor Michael Hatzung reported on the WELS Investment Funds and the WELS Foundation.
NPH	A short video described how Northwestern Publishing House serves our pastors and people.
COMMITTEE 7	After a brief recess, Pastor Benjy Peterson presented a resolution supporting the synod goal of 100 new home missions in 10 years. It was moved, supported and adopted.
COMMITTEE 8	Pastor Matt Hennig presented a resolution of thanks and prayer for the work of WELS World Missions. The resolution was adopted.
COMMITTEE 9	Pastor Tim Denney reported on ministry anniversaries and retirements of workers at our synod schools. Resolution (1) giving thanks for these workers was adopted. Resolution (2) urging synod to increase its subsidy to MLC was adopted.
COMMITTEE 10	Pastor Tom Hartwig presented reports giving thanks for the areas of ministry covered by the Congregational and District Ministry committee. The reports were adopted.

COMMITTEE 11	Pastor Dan Walters presented on Ministry Support, giving thanks for the groups that support our synod and its work. The reports were received with thanks.
AID & RELIEF	Pastor Dan Sims reported as the director of WELS Christian Aid & Relief. A short video described their work.
WORLD MISSIONS	Pastor Larry Schlomer presented a report for WELS World Missions.
CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE	Pastor David Peters reported on the work and procedures of the District Constitution Committee.
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE	Pastor Martin Bentz reported for the District Legislation Committee.
SPECIAL MINISTRIES	Pastor Patrick Feldhus serves as the coordinator for Special Ministries. He reported on his committee's work addressing mental health, disability, and other needs.
CLOSING	The convention recessed for supper with the announcement that evening devotion will be held in the Chapel of the Christ. The evening session (5) was cancelled.
DEVOTION	Pastor Ed Lehmann led our devotion focused on 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. Proclaiming Christ with God's foolishness means proclaiming the cross.

Respectfully submitted,
Eugene DeVries, Secretary

SESSION SIX

DEVOTION

Session 6 of the Fifty-second Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District opened with a devotion led by Pastor Paul Meitner based on Isaiah 55:8-11 and focused on proclaiming Christ with confidence.

MINUTES

The minutes of Session 4 were read and adopted.

CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

A video from WELS Congregational Services described their work of supporting our congregations in worship, ministry, and education.

MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN GIVING

Pastor Peter Sulzle reported from the Ministry of Christian Giving as they work with members and donors who support the work of our church body.

COMMITTEE 1

Pastor Brian Roloff brought forward a second resolution to receive new pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and professors into district membership. The resolution was moved, supported, and adopted.

COMMITTEE 4

Pastor John Stelljes brought two reports from Committee 4 and six resolutions. Resolution (1) to give the convention offering to the MN District Scholarship was moved, second, and adopted. Resolution (2) to ratify the list of 2023 delegates to synod convention was moved, seconded, and adopted. Resolution (3) to ratify the list of conference presidents and secretaries was moved, seconded, and adopted. Resolution (4) to ratify the list of circuit pastors was moved, seconded, and adopted. Resolution (5) to ratify the District Officers was moved, seconded, and adopted. Resolution (6) to thank everyone who made this convention possible and to thank former district leaders was moved, seconded, and adopted.

COMMITTEE 2

Mr. Nick Schmoller reported that we had 231 delegates in attendance.

COMMITTEE 13

Pastor David Barkow presented the report from the excuse committee.

MINUTES

The minutes of Session 6 were read, and it was moved, supported, and carried to adopt the minutes.

CLOSING SERVICE

The convention closed with a service led by Pr. Roger Neumann. He shared a message based on Isaiah 52:7-10. District officers for

the 2022-2024 biennium were installed. The convention adjourned at 9:51 a.m. on June 9, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene DeVries, Secretary