

THE FIFTIETH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
THE MINNESOTA DISTRICT OF WELS

Martin Luther College
New Ulm, Minnesota

June 14–16, 2016

SESSION ONE

OPENING SERVICE

The Fiftieth Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod opened with a communion service at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2016, at the Chapel of the Christ on the campus of Martin Luther College in New Ulm. Pastor John Boeder served as the presiding minister. Pastor Benjamin Blumer delivered the sermon based on Galatians 5:1-6. The offering totaled \$1617. Prof. Jonathan Roux served as the organist and Prof. Adrian Smith as the Choir Director.

OPENING

President Charles Degner opened the convention in the name of the Triune God at 11:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE 1

Pastor Paul Tessmer, from the Credentials and Membership Committee #1, presented his report. Resolution #1 regarding credentials was adopted.

GREETING

President Mark Zarling of Martin Luther College welcomed the delegates to the campus of Martin Luther College.

COMMITTEE 16

Second Vice President Dennis Klatt reported for Committee 16.

COMMITTEE 6

Pastor Jeff Bovee of the Media Relations reported for Committee #6.

COMMITTEE 14

Pastor John Boeder, chairman of Committee #14, encouraged the delegates to make use of his Courtesy and Printing Committee's services.

COMMITTEE 15

First Vice President Don Sutton reported for the Copy Review Committee.

COMMITTEE 3

Nominations Committee Chairman, Henry Koch, reported on the nomination list for elections. Zion, Winthrop, replaces Butterfield as a delegate congregation and Pastor Phil Spaude will fill a nomination slot to serve on the Nominating Committee for the St. Croix Conference.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT District President Charles Degner presented his report to the Minnesota District.

ELECTIONS Elections Chair, Brandon Steenbock, called for nominations by paper ballot for the office of District President.

DISTRICT
COMMITTEE REPORTS Dan Voigt reported for our district Adult Discipleship Committee, Jeremy Glowicki for Home Missions, and Darren Green for Special Ministries.

ELECTIONS Brandon Steenbock presented the slate of nominees for District President: Jeff Bovee, Jonathan Bitter, Charles Degner, and Dennis Klatt. A vote was taken by paper ballot.

CLOSING Session 1 closed at noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael R. Hatzung, Secretary

SESSION TWO

DEVOTION	Session 2 of the Fiftieth Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District opened at 1:30pm with a devotion led by Pastor Bryan Prell, who focused our attention on Matthew 22:34-30 and a focus on the Ten Commandments.
MINUTES	Secretary Michael Hatzung read the minutes of Session 1. The minutes were adopted as read.
ELECTIONS	Elections Chair Brandon Steenbock reported that Charles Degner was reelected as our District President. Nominations for First Vice President were received by paper ballot.
PRESENTATION	Jeffrey Limpert shared a presentation titled " <i>What Does It Mean to Be Confessional?</i> ". After discussion the essayist was dismissed with thanks.
ELECTIONS	Elections Chair Brandon Steenbock shared that Jonathan Bitter, Jeffrey Bovee, and Dennis Klatt were nominated for election as First Vice President. Ballots for election were distributed.
TLHA	Joel Gaertner shared information from The Lutheran Home Association and will post a video to the district website.
WLC	Wayne Shevey shared information about Wisconsin Lutheran College.
RECESS	At 3:15p.m. the convention recessed.
ELECTIONS	At 3:50 p.m. Brandon Steenbock announced the election of Dennis Klatt as our First Vice President. Nominations were gathered for Second Vice President.
MINISTERIAL ED	Mark Zarling reported for the Board for Ministerial Education.
WELS HYMNAL	Keith Wessel shared a video from the WELS Hymnal Committee.
WELS SHEPHERD PLAN	Verlyn Hahn reported for the WELS Shepherd Plan.
ELECTIONS	Elections Chair, Brandon Steenbock, presented those nominated for Second Vice President, Jonathan Bitter, Jeffrey Bovee, and Craig Engel. Ballots for election were distributed.
NOMINATIONS	Nominations Chair Henry Koch shared the list of people nominated for district positions.
YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP	Bill Monday reported for Youth Discipleship

ELECTIONS

Brandon Steenbock announced that Jonathan Bitter and Jeffrey Bovee would participate in a runoff election for Second Vice President

WORSHIP

David Bauer reported for our district's Worship Committee.

LEGISLATION

Mike Valleau reported for the district's Legislation Committee.

ELECTIONS

Chair Brandon Steenbock announced the election of Jonathan Bitter as the Second Vice President of the Minnesota District.

CLOSING

Bryan Prell closed the session at 5:05 p.m. with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Hatzung, Secretary

SESSION THREE

DEVOTION	Session 3 of the Fiftieth Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District opened at 8:30 a.m. with a devotion led by Keith Siverly. He focused our attention on Matthew 3:16-17 and the Creed.
MINUTES	Minutes for session 2 of the convention were read by Secretary Michael Hatzung. They were approved as read.
ELECTIONS	Elections Chair Brandon Steenbock called for nominations by paper ballot for District Secretary.
PRESENTATION	Jon Brohn presented a paper titled, " <i>What Does It Mean to be Evangelical?</i> ". Questions were received and the essayist was dismissed with thanks.
ELECTIONS	Elections Chair Steenbock shared that David Barkow, Jeffrey Bovee, Jonathan Brohn, James Dretske, and Michael Hatzung were nominated for District Secretary, and ballots for this election were gathered.
CONSTITUTION	Michael Killinger reported for the District Constitution Committee.
WARTBURG PROJECT	Rick Tuttle reported on the progress of the Wartburg Project.
ELECTIONS	Elections Chair Brandon Steenbock announced that Michael Hatzung has been elected District Secretary. Delegates then filled in their ballot for district positions.
MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN GIVING	Jonathan Brohn shared a PowerPoint presentation for the Ministry of Christian Giving.
RECESS	At 10:30 a.m. we recessed for a 15 minute break.
WORLD MISSIONS	Administrator Larry Schlomer shared a presentation on WELS World Missions. He encouraged congregations to visit wels.net/missions regularly and share information with members.
SYNOD PRESIDENT	President Mark Schroeder shared a report from the Synod Presidium. Eight new Home Mission congregations will be opened this next year. World Missions is working with hundreds of people who want to be trained by us for ministry in their congregations.
COMMITTEE 1	Committee 1 Chair, Paul Tessmer, put forward Resolution 2 from Credentials and Membership for adoption. It was seconded and approved.
SYNODICAL COUNCIL	Our Synodical Council Representative, Paul Holzhueter, reported on the Synodical Council's work. He spoke to CMO, other sources

of income for the synod, the WELS Retirement Fund, the Compensation Guidelines Proposal, and the WELS Archives in the lower level of the WELS CMM.

CLOSING

Keith Siverly led us in a prayer and Session 3 was closed at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Hatzung, Secretary

SESSION FOUR

DEVOTION	Session 4 of the Fiftieth Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District opened at 1:30 p.m. with a devotion led by Dan Reich. He focused our attention on Matthew 6:5-13 and the Lord's Prayer.
MINUTES	Minutes of Session 3 were read and approved as read.
ELECTIONS	Elections Chair Brandon Steenbock reviewed election results. It was moved, seconded and carried that their report be adopted.
PRESENTATION	Chris Cordes presented a paper titled, " <i>What Does It Mean to be Missional?</i> "
RECESS	A 15 minute recess was declared at 3:00 p.m.
EVANGELISM	Stephen Meyer shared the report from the district Evangelism Committee.
COMMITTEE 11	Greg Thiesfeldt shared Reports 1-6 from Committee 11, Ministry Support. A motion was made to recommit to committee to consider a memorial to the synod in convention to form a long term study of pension options. The motion was seconded and defeated. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept Reports 1 through 6.
COMMITTEE 7	Todd Engel, Chair of the Home Missions Committee, shared his committee's report. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the report.
COMMITTEE 8	Tom Hunter shared Reports 1 and 2 from the World Missions Committee. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the reports.
COMMITTEE 12	Steve Waldschmidt from the Special Matters Committee shared Reports 1-3 with the convention. Michael Geiger presented Resolution 1 concerning the Compensation Review Committee from the Special Matters Committee. It was moved and seconded that we adopt Resolution 1. After discussion the motion to adopt carried. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept Reports 1-3, and the entire report of the committee was accepted with thanks.
HOME MISSIONS	Home Missions Administrator Keith Free shared his report with the convention.
WELS CARE	Keith Free also shared a video from WELS Christian Aid and Relief, which highlighted work at Crown of Life in New Orleans 10 years after Katrina.

CLOSING

The session was closed with prayer by Dan Reich at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Hatzung, Secretary

SESSION FIVE

OPENING	Session 5 of the Fiftieth Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District opened at 7:00 p.m.
MINUTES	The minutes of Session 4 were read and adopted as read.
NORTHWESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE	Mark Buske shared information about Northwestern Publishing House.
500 th ANNIVERSARY	Arnold Koelpin shared plans for the celebration of the 500 th anniversary of the Reformation. A Luther movie by Boettcher/Trinklein will be aired on PBS and will be available for other use.
COMMITTEE 9	Dan Whitney reported for the Ministerial Education Committee. Resolution 1, "Ministry Recognition and Thanks" was brought forward for adoption. It was seconded and adopted. It was moved, seconded and carried that we accept the entire report with thanks.
COMMITTEE 10	Mark Cordes reported for the Congregation and District Ministry Committee and shared Reports 1-10. It was moved, seconded and carried that the Reports 1-10 be accepted. Resolution 1, "Joint Statement Regarding the Termination of Fellowship," was brought forward for adoption and seconded. After discussion the resolution was adopted. It was moved, seconded and carried that we accept the entire report of Committee 10.
CONTINUING ED	Stephen Smith updated the convention on continuing education offerings available in the district.
WELS FOUNDATION WELS INV. FUNDS	Jim Holm, director of the WELS Foundation and WELS Investment Funds, reported for these WELS subsidiaries. In addition, he shared information regarding new enhancements to WELS Investment Funds that bring total expenses down to about .5% annually.
CLOSING	The convention moved to the Chapel of the Christ for an 8:30 p.m. devotion on Acts 2:38-39 with Edwin Lehmann serving as the devotion leader. The focus of the devotion was on The Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Hatzung, Secretary

SESSION SIX

DEVOTION

Session 6 of the Fiftieth Biennial Convention of the Minnesota District opened with a devotion led by Ellery Groth. He focused our attention on 1 John 1:8,9 and The Keys and Confession.

MINUTES

The minutes of Session 5 were read and adopted.

CONVENTION DATES

A motion was made to conduct our Fifty-first Minnesota District Convention from June 12-14, 2018. The motion was seconded and carried.

COMMITTEE 4

Greg Tobison reported for the Resolution and President's Report Committee. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the report of the committee. Resolution 1 "Opening Worship Offerings" was brought forward, seconded and adopted. Resolution 2 "Ratification of Delegates to 2017 Synod Convention" was brought forward, seconded and adopted. Resolution 3 "Ratification of Conference Officers" was brought forward, seconded and adopted. Resolution 4 "Ratification of Circuit Pastors" was brought forward, seconded and adopted. Resolution 5 "Ratification of District Officers" was brought forward, seconded, and adopted. Resolution 6 "Expressions of Gratitude" was brought forward, seconded and adopted.

COMMITTEE 3

Henry Kock from the Nominating Committee shared encouragement to bring forward names from our district for synod positions up for election next summer.

COMMITTEE 2

David Gartner, chair of the Registration Committee, shared his report. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the report

COMMITTEE 15

Excuses Chair Jonathan Kruschel shared his committee's report. It was moved, seconded and carried that we accept the report.

SUPPORT COMMITTEE

1st Vice President Don Sutton reported on the Committee on Support in the district for support of retired called worker families in unique financial situation.

THANKS

President Degner shared special thanks for Michelle Gartner's work as the Events Coordinator and Rick Tuttle for his work with the district website.

RECESS

We recessed at 9:25 a.m. for a 20- minute break.

NEW CALLED WORKERS

The District recognized called workers who are new to the district by having them introduce themselves.

PRESIDENT'S
PRESENTATION

President Charles Degner shared a presentation with a stewardship focus titled, "Joyful Generosity".

MINUTES

The minutes of Session 6 were read, and it was moved, seconded and carried that we adopt the minutes.

CLOSING SERVICE

The Convention closed with a service led by Martin Lopahs. He shared a devotion based on 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 with a focus on The Sacrament of the Altar. Our called workers who are now sainted with the Lord in heaven were remembered. The district officers for the 2016-2018 biennium were installed. The convention was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. on June 16, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Hatzung, Secretary