



## *PROCEEDINGS*

Forty-first Convention

*Iowa District West*

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Camp Okoboji

Milford, IA

June 26-28, 2022

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# PROCEEDINGS – 2022

## PREFACE

### “Partners in the Gospel”

The theme for the 41st Convention of Iowa District West was "Partners in the Gospel" with the convention theme text taken from Philippians 1:3-5.

*ESV Philippians 1:3-5 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.*

The delegates to the convention entered the Christian Life Center at Camp Okoboji on Monday morning to find small pigs at every seat in the room. Many of the delegates may have thought the pigs an appropriate memento for a District Convention in Iowa. But, as the Rev. Dr. Steven Turner, President of Iowa District West, explained in his opening devotion, the pigs were given to the delegates as a reminder of the convention theme, "Partners in the Gospel" (PIG). In the theme text from Philippians, Paul expresses his thanksgiving for the Philippians' "partnership in the Gospel," and that thanksgiving was reflected in President Turner's message to the delegates. The congregations of Iowa District West are blessed to be in partnership with one another and with the many ministries of District and the Synod that were represented at the convention.

We celebrated the "partnerships in the Gospel" that exist among the congregations of the District. Iowa District West has many multi-point parishes where two or more congregations share a pastor and carry out Christ's Great Commission together.

We celebrated the "partnership in the Gospel" that exists among Districts in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Among those who brought greetings to the convention were the Presidents of our border Districts, Nebraska and South Dakota.

We celebrated the "partnership in the Gospel" we have with our Synod's two seminaries and with its Concordia University System. Bringing greetings to the convention were representatives from Concordia University, Nebraska; Concordia University, St. Paul; and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

We celebrated the "partnerships in the Gospel" we have with other organizations and agencies in Iowa District West and in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For the 40th time, the District Convention was held at Camp Okoboji. Delegates celebrated the work of Lutheran Family Service and pledged support for expanding the ministry of LFS. Other "Partners in the Gospel" represented were Mission Central, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, the LCMS Foundation, Concordia Plan Services, the Lutheran Laymen's League, and Lutheran Bible Translators.

The 41st Convention of Iowa District West will be remembered for the spirit of "partnership in the Gospel" that was demonstrated by all who participated. Discussions were held in a spirit of Christian love, and a unity of purpose was evident as the delegates approved resolutions for the extension of the Gospel in Iowa District West.

Under the theme, “Partners in the Gospel,” the convention adopted 14 resolutions. Those actions, along with the minutes of the five convention sessions are included in these convention *Proceedings*. To facilitate your reading of the resolutions, the following may prove helpful:

- An “A” attached to a resolution number indicates that floor committees made changes in those resolutions as originally published before they introduced them for consideration by the convention.
- The number in parentheses behind the word “Action” below each resolution indicates the convention session during which action on the resolution was taken. More information about the handling of the resolution may be found in the minutes of those sessions.
- In keeping with the Synod's guidelines for overtures/resolutions, the format used for resolutions proposing bylaw changes is to strike through the wording to be replaced and to underline the proposed changes.
- Comments in parentheses below the resolutions offer information regarding changes made during discussion of the proposed resolution and actions taken in connection with the adoption of the resolutions. A few of these notes contain information provided by the District Secretary that he hopes will be helpful in the use of a particular resolution.

The presentation of these *Proceedings* completes my first term as the District Secretary of Iowa District West. I had an extra year to get acclimated to my duties because of the postponement of the convention due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All in all, the past four years have been an enjoyable experience. I have learned a lot about the responsibilities of a District Secretary and the workings of the District. I would like to thank President Turner and the Board of Directors of Iowa District West for their partnership in the Gospel as we have served together these last four years. I also want to thank the staff of our District Office, especially Jill, Sue, and Roger, who have been a special blessing to me and have made my job as District Secretary a lot less stressful. Thanks to the Rev. Josh Lowe for serving as my assistant at the convention. Above all, thanks be to God for His grace in guiding and sustaining me through the many responsibilities of the office. It is my humble prayer that I may continue to be of service to the District in the new triennium as the Lord blesses me.

To God be the Glory,

The Rev. Richard Merrill  
District Secretary

THE MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> CONVENTION  
OF IOWA DISTRICT WEST  
OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
HELD AT CAMP OKOBOJI, MILFORD, IOWA  
JUNE 26-28, 2022  
“Partners in the Gospel”

*Registration and Evening Meal*

Convention registration got underway at Camp Okoboji, 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 26, 2022, in the Discover Center.

The evening meal was served at Camp Okoboji.

*Opening Worship*

The opening worship service was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake, Iowa.

The order of worship was Divine Service Setting One in Lutheran Service Book.

The sermon was given by the Rev. Nabil Nour, Fourth Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The text was the convention theme text, Philippians 1:3-5. His sermon centered on the four "Cs" that describe the partnership believers have in the Gospel: **Charity**--we show to others the love Christ has shown to us. **Compassion**--we show compassion to every person, because Jesus Christ died for all; we support them in the pain which they endure. **Comfort**--we comfort others with the good news of what Jesus has won for us. Jesus has paid the price for our salvation and earned a place for us in heaven. **Commitment**--we are purchased with a price, and the Holy Spirit empowers us to be Christ's ambassadors to a world that does not know the good news.

Rev. Nour challenged us as brothers and sisters in Christ to find an individual to partner with to encourage us and hold us accountable in our faith walk. He encouraged attendees to share the love of Jesus with one person a day and to pray for our District President and our fellow pastors. The Gospel of Jesus Christ binds us together. We work together to share the Gospel. Jesus came to our world so that He could have a relationship with us. He chooses us to be partners with Him. Our partnership in the Gospel, cemented by the glue of God's love--His Word and Sacraments--will never come to an end.

The Prayer of the Church included petitions for:

- zeal for the Word of God that we might faithfully proclaim Christ;
- the LCMS, all her congregations, professional church workers, her leadership, and all her missionaries;
- the Iowa District West in convention;
- all who are in authority;
- special concerns.

The offering was designated for the District's Ministry Excellence Fund for Education Debt Assistance.

*Announcements, Orientation Session, and Floor Committee Meetings*

President Turner thanked the delegates for their service to Christ and His kingdom. He thanked Immanuel for hosting the service. He asked for a show of hands of those who were attending a District convention for the first time.

President Turner recognized the District staff and pointed out that they would be happy to help everyone at the convention when needed.

President Turner shared that the Convention Floor Committees met at the District Office on May 14 and reviewed the overtures that had been submitted. Those overtures had now become resolutions and were posted online. They can be found in the registration packets. The Floor Committees will be meeting tonight at Immanuel. Convention attendees may use this time to address their questions.

Convention registration will continue at Camp Okoboji.

The dress for the convention is casual.

President Turner gave the schedule for Monday morning. Morning Prayer, led by the Rev. David Viggers, will be at the Point at 7:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served in the Dining Hall at 7:30 (name badges are required). The convention choir will meet for practice in the Christian Life Center at 8:00 a.m. Director is the Rev. Nathan Sherrill. The opening devotion for the convention will be at 8:30 in the Christian Life Center.

President Turner reminded the delegates to wear their name badges during the convention. The voting keypads will be placed at delegate seating in the Christian Life Center. Voting delegates will be seated at tables which have a red streamer. Delegates were reminded to bring their convention workbook and the resolution booklet.

The delegates were also reminded that they represent their congregation and are baptized children of God and that is how we should treat one another when speaking to the convention. All of the microphones on the convention floor will be "live" so they do not need to be turned on. When addressing the convention, delegates should identify themselves with their name and congregation. The convention will follow Robert's Rules of Order and Mr. Tim Buelow will serve as parliamentarian. District Staff is available for assistance--they will be wearing polo shirts with the convention logo--black shirts on Monday, red shirts on Tuesday.

President Turner stated that the Rev. Nabil Nour, Fourth Vice President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is the Synod representative to the convention. He will have a major presentation Monday evening. The Convention Essayist is the Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, President Emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. President Turner informed the delegates that his plan was to work into the evening Monday. He hopes to conclude Tuesday afternoon.

Light refreshments were served in Immanuel Lutheran Church's Christian Life Center.

**Session 1**  
**Morning Session, Monday, June 27, 2022**

*Morning Prayer and Breakfast*

Monday, June 27, 2022 began with Morning Prayer at the Point led by the Rev. David Viggers. The readings for the day were Joshua 2:1-24 (Rahab and the spies) and Acts 8:26-40 (Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch). As the Holy Spirit stood by Rahab as she greeted the spies and led Philip to go south to meet with the Ethiopian eunuch, so the Holy Spirit, our greatest "Partner in the Gospel," has brought us together as pastors and lay people of Iowa District West, to sharpen us and open the Scriptures to us, so that we might believe in Christ and in the mighty works of God and together accomplish His work.

Breakfast was served in the Dining Hall at 7:30 a.m.

*Opening Devotions*

The opening devotions began with the convention choir, under the direction of Rev. Nathan Sherrill, singing, "O Holy, Blessed Trinity."

President Turner read the convention theme text, Philippians 1:3-5. He reflected that Philippians is Paul's "epistle of joy." The Philippians were people who put the grace of God into practice through financial support for Paul and through their love for one another. The epistle is a thank-you letter: "I thank my God every time I remember you" (verse 3).

President Turner thanked the delegates and thanked God that the Gospel has continued to be proclaimed through these last four years. God is to be praised above all. President Turner thanked the pastors of Iowa District West for preaching Christ crucified, administering the sacraments, caring for the sick, and bringing the good news of the resurrection to families in need. He thanked the professional church workers of the District. Every one of our Lutheran schools has seen an increase in enrollment. Many of these new students are from unchurched families, so Lutheran schools are becoming mission fields. He thanked DCEs, deaconesses and other church professionals who participate in the Gospel ministry. He thanked the lay leaders who are here at the convention. We have leaders who love Jesus and know that they are loved by Him.

Today we remember. As a District, we remember the challenges we have faced over the last four years. COVID delayed our convention by a year. It was a difficult time for the church, with restrictions on gathering, and people sick and dying. COVID will have a lasting effect, but we need to move forward. We remember changes. This year is the 175th anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and of the state of Iowa. Many of us remember full churches, with small communities being the center of commerce and education. Churches were the heart of their communities. But the rural landscape has changed. The need for congregational partnership--congregations working together in the kingdom of God--has never been more evident than today. Philippians 2:3: "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Partnerships between congregations should be a thoughtful assessment as to how the Kingdom can be best served.

Today we pray. We pray for our communities facing accelerated changes in our culture. We pray for our nation, our state, our congregations, our life together as the people of God.

President Turner reminded the delegates that all these changes cannot rob us of our joy. We are to rejoice in the Lord always. The key is the source of our joy, which is in Jesus Christ. The Lord is always in us and we are always in the Lord--that is reason to live in joy.

Referencing the small pigs that were placed at each seat in the room, President Turner stressed that we are Partners in the Gospel (PIG). Partnership is an agreement when both parties cooperate together for their mutual interest. Congregations of Iowa District West cooperate to advance the kingdom of God. The word for partnership in Philippians 1 is *koinonia*, which can also be translated "participation." Through our baptism, we participate in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We receive all the benefits that He has won for us. The Lord's Supper is a participation in the very body and blood of Jesus for forgiveness and the strengthening of our faith.

#### *Committee 1: Registration and Credentials*

President Turner called on the Rev. Donald Peterson, Chairman of Committee 1: Registration and Credentials. Chairman Peterson gave his initial report. There were 97 registered pastoral delegates and 105 registered lay delegates for a total of 202 registered voting delegates. A quorum was established. There were also 5 commissioned ministers, 5 advisory pastors, 8 emeritus, 16 guests, 16 exhibitors, and 9 staff present at the beginning of the convention. It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept this initial report of Committee 1.

#### *Call to Order*

A quorum having been established, President Turner declared the 41<sup>st</sup> Convention of Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to be in session, “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” at 8:56 a.m. He concluded with a word of prayer.

#### *Appointments*

President Turner reminded the convention of the appointments made for the smooth operation of the convention.

##### Convention Managers

Ms. Rhonda Mohr, Assistant to the President for Education, Youth, and Family Life

The Rev. B. Keith Haney, Assistant to the President for Missions, Stewardship, and Human Care

##### Convention Business Manager

Mr. Roger Curtis, District Business Manager

##### Convention Reporter and Public Relations Director

The Rev. Joshua Lowe, assisted by Sarah Wudtke

##### Judge of Elections

The Rev. Alex Slotter

Parliamentarian: Mr. Tim Buelow

Convention Chaplain: The Rev. Jeffrey Keuning

Technology: Izaak Wendorff, Josh Wudtke, Sarah Wudtke, Rev. Robert Zellmer

District Administrative Staff: Jill Davis, Sue Light  
(the delegates thanked them with a round of applause)

Secretary: The Rev. Richard Merrill, District Secretary

Assistant Secretary: The Rev. Joshua Lowe

### *Test of the Voting Machines*

Voting instructions were given to all delegates. A check of the electronic voting equipment followed and a successful test of the equipment was run. Mr. Mark Lenz of Interactive Church Resources will serve as technician.

### *Adoption of the Standing Rules*

The President called on the District Secretary, the Rev. Richard Merrill, to review the special standing rules found on page seven of the *Convention Workbook*. After they were read, it was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt them as the standing rules of the convention.

### *Report of the Commission on Constitutions*

District Secretary Merrill directed the delegates to page 53 of the *Convention Workbook* for the report of the Commission on Constitutions.

In accord with Synod Bylaw 2.3, the following new congregation has submitted its constitution and application for membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. (Please see the page in the Convention packet titled, "Late Reports and Overtures.") On May 12, 2022, the Board of Directors accepted the constitution and approved the membership of

Faith Lutheran Church, Winterset, Iowa.

At the same time, the Board of Directors approved the changes in the constitution and bylaws of

St. Paul, Alta -- revised constitution and bylaws

Trinity, Creston and Mount Ayr -- revised constitution and bylaws

The following congregations have submitted Constitution and/or Bylaw revisions in accord with Synod Bylaw 2.4. They have been reviewed by the District Commission on Constitutions and are recommended for ratification by the Board of Directors of Iowa District West.

Zion, Dexter/St. John, Casey -- revised multi-point parish agreement

Christ, Bouton/Zion, Ogden -- new multi-point parish agreement

Immanuel, Pomeroy/Holy Trinity, Farnhamville -- new multi-point parish

agreement

Shepherd of Peace, Sergeant Bluff -- revised constitution

Faith, Deloit -- revised constitution and bylaws

St. John, St. Paul and Immanuel, Charter Oak -- new multi-point parish agreement

St. Paul, Whittemore -- revised bylaws

St. Paul, Ida Grove -- revised constitution and bylaws

Pilgrim, Lake City -- revised constitution and bylaws

Peace, Wall Lake -- revised constitution and bylaws

First, Wiota/St. John, Audubon -- new multi-point parish agreement

Bethel, Sutherland -- revised constitution and bylaws

Immanuel, Osceola/Our Saviour, Leon -- new multi-point parish agreement

St. Paul, Ames -- revised constitution and bylaws

It was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the report of the Commission on Constitutions.

#### *Committee 1: Missions*

In light of the acceptance of that report, President Turner called on the Rev. Jonathan Conner, Chairman of Floor Committee 2: Missions, to present Resolution #2-01 on pg. 3 in the *Convention Resolutions*, "To Receive Faith Lutheran Church of Winterset, Madison County, Iowa as a Member Congregation of Iowa District West."

#### *Acceptance of A New Congregation into the District and the Synod*

It was moved by Committee 2 and unanimously adopted by the convention to receive Faith Lutheran Church, Winterset, Iowa, as a member congregation of Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. This approval was expressed by the convention standing and singing the common doxology.

President Turner invited the Rev. Dr. Keith Schweitzer, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Mr. Steven Ritchart, elected lay delegate from Faith, and his family to the podium. President Turner welcomed them to the District and officially seated Steven Ritchart as a delegate to the convention. A photo was taken.

#### *Election of the District President*

President Turner asked District Secretary Richard Merrill to present the slate of candidates. The Rev. Dr. Steven Turner and the Rev. Jonathan Riggert were ratified by the convention as nominees for the office of District President. There were no nominations from the floor. Chaplain Jeffrey Keuning led the convention in prayer. The Rev. Dr. Steven Turner was elected with 89.5% of the vote on the first ballot. Dr. Turner was declared to be the District President of Iowa District West. Vote totals were as follows: Steven Turner 179 votes (89.5%) and Jonathan Riggert 21 votes (10.5%). President Turner said he thanks Jesus every day for guiding and directing him in his office, and thanked his wife Darlene without whom his ministry would not be possible.

#### *Election of the First Vice-President*

For First Vice-President, the slate of candidates included: the Rev. Chadric Dietrich, the Rev. Paul Egger and the Rev. Jonathan Riggert. There being no nominations from the floor, the slate was ratified by the delegates. Chaplain Keuning led the convention in prayer. The results of the first ballot were:

Chadric Dietrich	27 votes (13.6%)
Paul Egger	99 votes (50%)
Jonathan Riggert	72 votes (36.4%)

With no candidate having received a majority, the name of Chadric Dietrich was removed and a second ballot was taken. Results of the second ballot were:

<b>Paul Egger</b>	<b>121 votes (60.8%)</b>
Jonathan Riggert	78 votes (39.2%)

The Rev. Paul Egger was elected First Vice-President of Iowa District West on the second ballot.

#### *Election of the Second Vice-President*

The slate of candidates for Second Vice-President included the Rev. Chadric Dietrich, the Rev. Jonathan Riggert, the Rev. Benjamin Dose, the Rev. Seth Kaiser, the Rev. John Koopman, the Rev. David Kuhfal, the Rev. Bruce Lesemann, the Rev. Dennis Martens, and the Rev. Nicholas Thackery. The slate of candidates was ratified with no nominations from the floor. Chaplain Keuning led the convention in prayer. The results of the first ballot were:

Chadric Dietrich	53 votes (27 %)
Jonathan Riggert	80 votes (40.8%)
Benjamin Dose	23 votes (11.7%)
Seth Kaiser	8 votes (4.1%)
John Koopman	2 votes (1%)
David Kuhfal	7 votes (3.6%)
Bruce Lesemann	7 votes (3.6%)
Dennis Martens	10 votes (5.1%)
Nicholas Thackery	6 votes (3%)

With no candidate receiving a majority, the name of John Koopman was removed and a second ballot was taken. Results of the second ballot were:

Chadric Dietrich	47 votes (23.7 %)
Jonathan Riggert	98 votes (49.5%)
Benjamin Dose	18 votes (9.1%)
Seth Kaiser	9 votes (4.6%)
David Kuhfal	5 votes (2.5%)
Bruce Lesemann	6 votes (3%)
Dennis Martens	8 votes (4%)
Nicholas Thackery	7 votes (3.5%)

Again, no candidate received a majority, so the name of David Kuhfal was removed and a third ballot was taken. Results of the third ballot were:

Chadric Dietrich	46 votes (23.4 %)
<b>Jonathan Riggert</b>	<b>107 votes (54.3%)</b>
Benjamin Dose	19 votes (9.6%)
Seth Kaiser	5 votes (2.5%)
Bruce Lesemann	5 votes (2.5%)
Dennis Martens	6 votes (3%)
Nicholas Thackery	9 votes (4.6%)

The Rev. Jonathan Riggert was elected to serve as Second Vice-President of Iowa District West on the third ballot.

*Committee 3: Administration and Finances*

President Turner called on the Rev. Jonathan Riggert, Chairman of Floor Committee 3: Administration and Finances, to present Resolution #3-01 on pg. 13 in the *Convention Resolutions*, "To Thank and Recognize the Rev. Roger Carlisle."

*Recognition for Service to District and the Synod*

It was moved by Committee 2 and unanimously adopted by the convention to thank and recognize the Rev. Roger Carlisle for his service to the District as a "Partner in the Gospel." The convention expressed their thanks by standing and singing the common doxology.

*Welcome from Camp Okoboji*

Mr. Kirk Warnke, the Executive Director of Camp Okoboji, welcomed the delegates and guests to Camp Okoboji. He stated that it is a privilege for the camp to serve Iowa District West as a Partner in the Gospel. Mr. Warnke shared the hope that the delegates would be refreshed in body and spirit and enjoy God's creation during their time at camp.

Mr. Warnke reminded everyone of the camp office hours and shared where restrooms and shelter during severe weather are located on camp. He said that all meals would be served in the Dining Hall.

Mr. Warnke thanked the delegates for allowing Camp Okoboji to host the convention. President Turner noted that every District Convention since 1942 has taken place at Camp Okoboji.

*Recess and Call to Order*

President Turner declared the convention in recess until 10:25 a.m.

The assembly gathered with the singing of hymn # 655 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word." (All hymns sung during the convention were from *Lutheran Service Book*.)

President Turner called the convention back to order.

*Greetings from the South Dakota District*

The Rev. Scott Sailer, President of the South Dakota District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, brought greetings to the convention. He extended congratulations to President Turner for his reelection. He noted that the South Dakota District has partnerships with Iowa District West through Camp Okoboji and, more recently, Lutheran Family Service.

Mrs. Carole White was invited to the stage for the first of many gift card giveaways from Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), an incentive for everyone to return on time.

#### *Committee 5: Nominating Committee*

President Turner invited the Rev. Timothy Geitz to the stage for the report of the Nominating Committee.

Rev. Geitz thanked the members of the nominating committee for their work in preparing the ballot.

Rev. Geitz directed the convention to page 83 in the Convention Workbook and shared the comprehensive ballot for the election of officers for Iowa District West and read the appropriate Bylaws regarding this election. The nominees for these offices and committees were as follows:

**DISTRICT SECRETARY (elect one):**

Thomas Cowell, Edward Durand, Richard Merrill

**DISTRICT TREASURER (elect one):** Kerry Burmeister, Scott Ernst, John Short  
**CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS (elect one):**

Terry Allers, Kent Hollrah, Ralph von Qualen

**CHAIRMAN, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (elect one):**

Benjamin Dose, Tim Geitz, Chad Trunkhill

**CHAIRMAN, STEWARDSHIP (elect one):**

Mitchel Schuessler, Russell Senstad, David Viggers

**CHAIRMAN, YOUTH SERVICES (elect one):**

Chris Nitzel, Ryan Roehrig, Robert Zellmer

**CHAIRMAN, MISSIONS (elect one):**

Benjamin Johnson, Joshua Lowe, Kyle McBee

**CHAIRMAN, HUMAN CARE (elect one):**

Chadric Dietrich, Kevin Johnson, Seth Kaiser

**ORDAINED MINISTER-AT-LARGE (elect one):**

Merle Mahnken, John Schonkaes, Paul Schulz

**COMMISSIONED MINISTER-AT-LARGE (elect one):**

Cory Emily, Merrilee Sump, Thomas Wilson

**LAY MEMBER-AT-LARGE (elect three):**

Dennis Backhaus, James Franzmeier,  
Rachel Greene, Mark Kramer, Mark Schulz,  
Tracy Stetzel

**DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Ordained Ministers (elect three):** Roger Carlisle, Tim Geitz, David Lyons,  
Dennis Martens, Russell Senstad,  
Michael Wolfram

**Commissioned Minister (elect one):** Amy Schroeder, Thomas Wilson

**Laypersons (elect three):** Timothy Buelow, Lee Dreyer, Ruth Gerken,  
Garry Gruhn, Kimberly Laube, Kirk Warnke

There were no nominations from the floor, and the motion to adopt the slate of candidates as presented carried by voice vote. Chaplain Keuning led the convention in prayer before the election.

*Election of District Officers*

The slate of candidates for the office of **District Secretary** was announced, results of the first ballot were as follows:

Thomas Cowell	33 (16.8%)
Edward Durand	28 (14.2%)
<b>Richard Merrill</b>	<b>136 (69%)</b>

With 69% of the votes cast, the Rev. Richard Merrill was declared reelected as District Secretary on the first ballot.

The slate of candidates for **District Treasurer** was announced. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

Kerry Burmeister	49 (25.5%)
<b>Scott Ernst</b>	<b>131 (68.2%)</b>
John Short	12 (6.3%)

Scott Ernst was declared reelected as District Treasurer on the first ballot, having received 68.2% of the votes cast.

The slate of candidates for **Chairman of the Board of Directors** was announced. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

Terry Allers	92 (48.9%)
Kent Hollrah	27 (14.3%)
Ralph von Qualen	69 (36.7%)

With no candidate receiving a majority, the name of Kent Hollrah was removed and a second ballot was taken. Results of the second ballot were as follows:

<b>Terry Allers</b>	<b>108 (56.5%)</b>
Ralph von Qualen	83 (43.5%)

Terry Allers was declared elected on the second ballot, having received 56.5% of the votes cast.

The slate of candidates for **Chairman of the Christian Education Committee** was announced. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

<b>Benjamin Dose</b>	<b>114 (58.8%)</b>
Tim Geitz	47 (24.2%)
Chad Trunkhill	33 (17%)

Benjamin Dose was declared elected on the first ballot, having received 58.8% of the votes cast.

The slate of candidates for **Chairman of the Stewardship Committee** was announced. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

Mitchel Schuessler	55 (28.5%)
Russell Senstad	76 (39.4%)
David Viggers	62 (32.1%)

With no candidate receiving a majority, the name of Mitchel Schuessler was removed and a second ballot was taken. Results of the second ballot were as follows:

<b>Russell Senstad</b>	<b>105 (54.1%)</b>
David Viggers	89 (45.9%)

Russell Senstad was declared elected on the second ballot, having received 54.1% of the votes cast.

The slate of candidates for **Chairman of the Youth Services Committee** was announced. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

Chris Nitzel	42 (21.8%)
Ryan Roehrig	91 (47.1%)
Robert Zellmer	60 (31.1%)

With no candidate receiving a majority, the name of Chris Nitzel was removed and a second ballot was taken. Results of the second ballot were as follows:

<b>Ryan Roehrig</b>	<b>119 (62%)</b>
Robert Zellmer	73 (38%)

Ryan Roehrig was declared elected on the second ballot, having received 62% of the votes cast.

The slate of candidates for **Chairman of the Missions Committee** was announced. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

Benjamin Johnson	78 (41.1%)
Joshua Lowe	69 (36.3%)
Kyle McBee	43 (22.6%)

With no candidate receiving a majority, the name of Kyle McBee was removed and a second ballot was taken. Results of the second ballot were as follows:

Benjamin Johnson	93 (48.7%)
<b>Joshua Lowe</b>	<b>98 (51.3%)</b>

Joshua Lowe was declared elected on the second ballot, having received 51.3% of the votes cast.

The slate of candidates for **Chairman of the Human Care Committee** was announced. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

Chadric Dietrich	67 (34.5%)
Kevin Johnson	31 (16%)
Seth Kaiser	96 (49.5%)

With no candidate receiving a majority, the name of Kevin Johnson was removed and a second ballot was taken. Results of the second ballot were as follows:

Chadric Dietrich	78 (39.6%)
<b>Seth Kaiser</b>	<b>119 (60.4%)</b>

Seth Kaiser was declared elected on the second ballot, having received 60.4% of the votes cast.

The slate of candidates for **Ordained Minister Member-at-Large** on the Board of Directors was announced. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

Merle Mahnken	74 (38.5%)
John Schonkaes	62 (32.3%)
Paul Schulz	56 (29.2%)

With no candidate receiving a majority, the name of Paul Schulz was removed and a second ballot was taken. Results of the second ballot were as follows:

<b>Merle Mahnken</b>	<b>112 (58.6%)</b>
John Schonkaes	79 (41.4%)

Merle Mahnken was declared elected on the second ballot, having received 58.6% of the votes cast.

The slate of candidates for **Commissioned Minister Member-at-Large** on the Board of Directors was announced. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

Cory Emily	41 (21.6%)
Merrilee Sump	82 (43.1%)
Thomas Wilson	67 (35.3%)

With no candidate receiving a majority, the name of Cory Emily was removed and a second ballot was taken. Results of the second ballot were as follows:

<b>Merrilee Sump</b>	<b>109 (56.5%)</b>
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Thomas Wilson 84 (43.5%)

Merrilee Sump was declared elected on the second ballot, having received 56.5% of the votes cast.

The slate of candidates for **Layperson Member-at-Large** on the Board of Directors (three to be elected) was announced. Results of the first ballot were as follows:

Dennis Backhaus	64
James Franzmeier	94
Rachel Greene	85
<b>Mark Kramer</b>	<b>114</b>
Mark Schulz	97
<b>Tracy Stetzel</b>	<b>110</b>

With 194 ballots cast, Mark Kramer, with 114 votes, and Tracy Stetzel, with 110 votes, were declared elected on the first ballot, each having been named on a majority of the ballots cast.

A second ballot was conducted. The results of that ballot were:

Dennis Backhaus	14
James Franzmeier	57
Rachel Greene	45
Mark Schulz	72

With no candidate receiving a majority, the name of Dennis Backhaus was removed, and a third ballot was taken. The results of that ballot were:

James Franzmeier	51
Rachel Greene	51
Mark Schulz	92

With no candidate receiving a majority, a fourth ballot was taken. Due to the tie for second place on the third ballot, all of the names were left on the ballot. The results of the fourth ballot were:

James Franzmeier	42
Rachel Greene	41
<b>Mark Schulz</b>	<b>110</b>

With a majority of the votes cast, Mark Schulz was declared elected on the fourth ballot.

The slate of candidates for **District Nominating Committee—Ordained Ministers** was announced (three to be elected). The results of the first ballot were as follows:

<b>Roger Carlisle</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Timothy Geitz</b>	<b>105</b>
David Lyons	77
Dennis Martens	73

Russell Senstad 70  
**Michael Wolfram 123**

Roger Carlisle, Timothy Geitz and Michael Wolfram were declared elected on the first ballot. Michael Wolfram was declared chairman of the District Nominating Committee, having received the highest number of votes.

The slate of candidates for **District Nominating Committee—Commissioned Minister** was announced (one to be elected). The results of the balloting were as follows:

Amy Schroeder 86  
**Thomas Wilson 107**

Thomas Wilson was declared elected on the first ballot.

The slate of candidates for **District Nominating Committee—Laypersons** was announced (three to be elected). The results of the balloting were as follows:

**Timothy Buelow 127**  
Lee Dreyer 72  
**Ruth Gerken 107**  
Garry Gruhn 46  
Kimberly Laube 73  
**Kirk Warnke 131**

Timothy Buelow, Ruth Gerken, and Kirk Warnke were declared elected on the first ballot.

The slate of candidates for **Synod Committee for Convention Nominations** was announced. Iowa District West will have an ordained minister on the committee for the 2023 Synod Convention. Nominees were Michael Boothby, Merle Mahnken, Jonathan Riggert, and Nathan Sherrill. A representative and an alternate were to be elected.

The results of the first ballot were as follows:

Michael Boothby 26 (13.1%)  
Merle Mahnken 46 (23.2%)  
Jonathan Riggert 77 (38.9%)  
Nathan Sherrill 49 (24.8%)

With no candidate receiving a majority, the name of Michael Boothby was removed and a second ballot was taken. The results of the second ballot were as follows:

Merle Mahnken 43 (21.6%)  
Jonathan Riggert 97 (48.7%)  
Nathan Sherrill 59 (29.7%)

With no candidate receiving a majority, the name of Merle Mahnken was removed and a third ballot was taken. The results of the third ballot were as follows:

<b>Jonathan Riggert</b>	<b>118 (59%)</b>
Nathan Sherrill	82 (41%)

Jonathan Riggert was declared elected on the third ballot, with 59% of the votes cast. He will represent the District on the Synod Committee for Convention Nominations.

A ballot was then taken among the remaining three candidates to elect an alternate to represent the District on the Synod Committee for Convention Nominations. Results of the ballot were as follows:

Michael Boothby	17 (8.6%)
Merle Mahnken	58 (29.4%)
<b>Nathan Sherrill</b>	<b>122 (61.9%)</b>

Nathan Sherrill was declared elected on the first ballot, with 61.9% of the votes cast. He will be the District's alternate should Rev. Riggert be unable to serve.

This concluded the elections.

*Greetings from Concordia Universities, Nebraska and St. Paul*

Dr. Bernard Bull, President of Concordia University--Nebraska (CUNE), and the Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich, President of Concordia--St. Paul (CSP), brought greetings to the convention. They spoke about Lutheran education as being a lifelong continuum from cradle to grave. CUNE has the mission to prepare men and women for service in the church and in the world, with Christ as the center. One in four church workers in the LCMS comes from CUNE. CSP was established as a school to prepare pastors. Now it is a training ground for many types of vocations. Students enrolled in pre-seminary or deaconess programs at St. Paul will be able to attend CSP tuition-free. Together the Concordias partner to prepare students for dedicated service to God and to humanity; again, with Christ at the center. They empower students to live out their vocations, bringing the Gospel into ordinary life. CUNE and CSP are partners walking together in mission--while they are different campuses, they have the same mission for the Lord.

*Concordia Plan Services*

Mr. Paul Snyder from Concordia Plan Services (CPS) brought greetings to the convention. CPS is the "benefit arm" of the LCMS. They desire to partner with ministries and workers in the District to improve the health of ministries and the health of church workers. They offer one-on-one visits with workers (in-person, by phone, or by Zoom) to help workers understand their benefits so they can focus on their ministries.

*Recess and Table Prayer for Lunch*

President Turner declared the convention to be in recess until 1 p.m. Chaplain Jeffrey Keuning led the convention in prayer for lunch and also included requested intercessions for special needs.

**Session 2**  
**Afternoon Session, Monday, June 27, 2022**

*Call To Order*

The convention reconvened with the singing of hymn #768 "To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray."

President Turner called the convention back to order. He thanked Rev. Timothy Frank for serving as convention organist.

Mrs. Carole White from LCEF gave away another gift card.

*Essayist*

President Turner introduced the essayist for this convention, the Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, President Emeritus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, past speaker on The Lutheran Hour and host of the "On Main Street" television program. Dr. Meyer introduced his daughter and grandson who had accompanied him to the convention.

Dr. Meyer's first presentation was entitled, "A Fuller Gospel." Wherever the Gospel is, the Spirit of God is there to create faith. Dr. Meyer shared that his goal is to present Jesus in all His fullness. He stated that in the LCMS we have not presented Jesus falsely, but in his opinion we have not always presented Jesus fully in all the richness of the Gospel.

Dr. Meyer showed several slides on creation, including one that showed a picture of the earth taken from outer space. The earth is a little speck in the galaxy. Likewise, in the scheme of the universe, the LCMS is very small, and our communities and congregations in Iowa are smaller yet. We in the LCMS can come across as arrogant sometimes. We have the correct exposition of the Scriptures and the best scholars, but sometimes we handle it wrong. Job 38-40 puts things into perspective for us. These words of Scripture humble us and remind us of the need for the fear of God. We are silenced before the Almighty God.

After displaying the slides showing the wonders of creation, Dr. Meyer asked the convention, "How have we been as stewards of God's creation?" Through the Word of God, we see that man's heart is "only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). God is a God of judgment, but also a God of forgiveness. When God looked at His fallen creation, He sent a flood, yet at the same time He was planning for our salvation. At the right time, He sent His Son. That is the Gospel.

Dr. Meyer challenged the convention to think differently about how we present the Gospel. At Advent and Christmas, we focus on the birth of Jesus as a baby in the manger--but Jesus is no longer in the manger. During Lent, we present Jesus on the cross--but Jesus is no longer on the cross. At Easter, we rejoice in the resurrection--an event which is vital to the Gospel--but the resurrection is history. How do we witness today to Ukranian refugees? What do we say to people in Buffalo, New York, or Uvalde, Texas, communities affected by mass

shootings? To speak to the needs of hurting people, we need an even fuller story of the One who died and rose again.

Dr. Meyer noted that the convention theme, "Partners in the Gospel," is based on Philippians 1:3-5. But, he said, we stopped one verse too quickly. Verse 6 says, "And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion *at the day of Jesus Christ*" (quotation 6 on the handout, emphasis Meyer's). This is future--an event still to come.

In Philippians 2, Paul presents Jesus to us in the frame of His states of humiliation and exaltation (Philippians 2:5-11). Another popular verse is Philippians 4:4-7 (Quotation 4 on the handout). Dr. Meyer stressed verses 5-6. "Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. *The Lord is at hand*; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (emphasis Meyer's). The state of humiliation deals with the past. The state of exaltation deals with the present and future. We are not curators of a first century museum; we are partners in the Gospel of Him who is now seated at the right hand of God and in control of everything.

The church is not about the church; it is about Jesus Christ. The church is people who follow Jesus as He is now, in the control room, present for His people. Dr. Meyer quoted Colossians 1:15-20 (Quotation 5 on the handout): "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross." The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the fear of the Lord will guide us through our troubled yet opportune times.

Dr. Meyer shared that by his rough count, out of the 104 verses in Philippians there are 8 verses that explicitly mention the Last Day and 34 verses that describe the Christian's conduct in anticipation of the day of Christ. By contrast, there are only 4 verses that explicitly talk about the state of humiliation, and all those are in one section (chapter 2, verses 5-11). Conclusion: "The lens through which to read Philippians is the imminent appearing of Jesus Christ in glory" (Quotation 10 on the handout). The Lord's session at the right hand of God and His imminent return were important in the early church.

Today we also need to present the stories of Jesus in the first century through the lens of Jesus' session at the right hand of God and His imminent return. When Jesus comes again in glory, He will simply step from the invisible to the visible. And it is just one step away. No one knows when it is, but we do not realize enough that His coming for us is imminent.

Dr. Meyer used the Benediction from the liturgy to illustrate what Jesus' session at the right hand of God and His imminent return mean for His church today. "The Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you": the Benediction sends people into their everyday world knowing that Jesus Christ is in their face. He is with them and they are with Him.

Dr. Meyer will continue the presentation tomorrow with the theme, "Flourishing in Partnerships." The convention thanked Dr. Meyer for this first portion of the presentation.

*Report of the Assistant to the President for Education, Youth, and Family Life*

President Turner invited Ms. Rhonda Mohr, Assistant to the President for Education, Youth, and Family Life, to give her report to the convention.

Ms. Mohr began her report by showing the "Joy in Ministry" video emphasizing the joy of serving the Lord in full-time church work. She asked the convention to do two things: first, pray for more workers; and second, encourage young people and plant seeds for people to consider church work as a full-time career. She mentioned that the Synod also has a program called "Set Apart to Serve," to encourage full-time church work. Ms. Mohr shared that this year the schools in our Concordia University System graduated 88 church workers ready for calls, most of them Lutheran school teachers. Over 400 workers were needed. A large majority of calls went unfilled.

Ms. Mohr pointed out that Iowa District West has scholarships and grants for those studying for church work careers. The Rev. Joe Pierson is the new Director of Student Financial Aid for the District. The good news is that the District has been able to give large scholarships to its church work students, but this is because there are not many students studying for church work.

For Education, Ms. Mohr reported that there has been an increase of 94 students this year in our 8 Lutheran schools. We rejoice that there have been 9 baptisms and 11 adults added to our congregations through Lutheran school ministry. There are currently 35 preschools in the District. COVID has presented a challenge for preschools. Ms. Mohr thanked the preschool directors and pastors of the District for persevering during difficult times. All 8 Lutheran schools in Iowa District West are now accredited by National Lutheran School Accreditation, along with all the schools in Iowa District East.

Ms. Mohr mentioned the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (ILSTO) which helps families with the cost of attending Lutheran schools. Those who give to ILSTO receive a 75% tax credit on their Iowa taxes.

Ms. Mohr recognized Heidi Rains, preschool administrator at Mt. Olive Lutheran School, Des Moines, who won the National Distinguished Administrator award from the Lutheran Education Association (a national organization).

For Family Life, Ms. Mohr reported that the District has focused on strengthening families through marriage workshops, equipping families with resources to help deal with today's issues, and VBS Best Practices Workshops.

For Youth, Ms. Mohr stated that Junior High and Senior High Youth Gatherings will once again be held this fall. Almost 400 youth from Iowa District West are attending the National Youth Gathering July 9-13 in Houston, Texas. YouthLead (formerly Lutheran Youth Fellowship) equips teens to develop and use their leadership skills as they serve Christ within their communities. In the future, training sessions may be held in our District.

*Floor Committee 2: Mission and Ministry*

President Turner invited the Rev. Jonathan Conner, Chairman of Committee 2, to the stage for the presentation of resolutions.

Rev. Conner presented Resolution #2-02 on page 4 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To Affirm and Support the Work of Lutheran Family Service." The resolution was read and Rev. Conner moved for its adoption. There was no discussion. The resolution was approved with 88.9% of the vote.

Rev. Conner presented Resolution #2-03 on page 6 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To Encourage Outreach and Sharing Among Our Congregations." The resolution was read. Rev. Conner moved for its adoption. There was no discussion. The resolution was approved with 91% of the vote.

Rev. Conner presented Resolution #2-04 on pg. 8 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To Recognize and Thank The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Lutheran Church Extension Fund for the Strengthened and Expanded 'Soldiers of the Cross' COVID-19 Response Initiative." The resolution was read. Rev. Conner moved for its adoption. There was no discussion. The resolution was approved with 96.8% of the vote. President Turner and Rev. Conner will draft a letter to LCMS President Harrison expressing the thanks of the convention.

Rev. Conner presented Resolution #2-05 on pg. 9 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To Promote and Protect Comprehensive Wellness of Church Workers." The resolution was read. Rev. Conner moved for its adoption. There was no discussion. The resolution was approved with 96.8% of the vote.

President Turner dismissed Floor Committee 2, with one resolution remaining to be presented.

### *Floor Committee 3: Administration and Finances*

President Turner invited the Rev. Jonathan Riggert, Chairman of Committee 3, to the stage for the presentation of resolutions.

Rev. Riggert presented Resolution #3-02 on page 14 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To Commend the Celebration of the 175th Anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in District Congregations in 2022." The resolution was read and Rev. Riggert moved for its adoption. There was no discussion. The resolution was approved with 94.6% of the vote. Chaplain Keuning offered a prayer of thanksgiving, and the assembly stood to sing the common doxology.

Rev. Riggert presented Resolution #3-03 on page 16 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To Provide an Annual Compensation and Benefit Recommendation for Professional Church Workers of Iowa District West." The resolution was read. Rev. Riggert moved for its adoption.

There was a question from the floor as to whether the resolution would be in effect for the term of this convention only, or from this time forward. Rev. Riggert answered that the resolution was intended to provide an annual recommendation each year from now on.

The resolution was approved with 84.8% of the vote.

Rev. Riggert presented Resolution #3-04A, which replaced Resolution #3.04 on pg. 17 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To Amend Bylaw 2.2.1 to Hold the Convention of Iowa District

West in the Second Full Week Following Memorial Day." The replacement resolution involved a change in the final *Resolved*, which had originally quoted bylaw 2.2.2 and was amended to refer to bylaw 2.2.1. The resolution was read. Rev. Riggert moved for its adoption.

A "friendly amendment" was proposed to the final *Resolved*, to insert the word "ordinarily" ahead of the words "be held" in the proposed bylaw 2.2.1. The amendment was accepted by the committee.

The resolution was approved as amended, with 93.5% of the vote.

President Turner dismissed Floor Committee 3, with further resolutions to be presented at a later time.

### *Greetings from the Seminaries*

President Turner called Mr. Bill Wright from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to the podium to bring greetings from the Synod's two seminaries. Mr. Wright showed a video featuring seminary and church work students describing the people who had encouraged them in their studies. He brought greetings from the Rev. Dr. Tom Egger, president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; and from the faculty, staff and students. (The representative from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne was unable to be present.)

Mr. Wright told the delegates that both seminaries are preparing future pastors, missionaries and deaconesses for a bright future in ministry. There are programs both for ministerial formation and for advanced degrees. The church needs more pastors. This spring, 42 calling congregations received the news that they would not be receiving a seminary graduate as pastor. Our seminaries are faithfully trusting the Lord, enhancing recruitment efforts, and offering zero tuition for students in ministry formation. (They still have expenses for their undergraduate studies, books, housing, etc.) Mr. Wright asked that the convention pray for the work of the seminaries, and that we recommend students for ministry. He also encouraged financial support of the seminaries.

### *Announcement and Recess*

District Secretary Merrill announced that during the recess the Carroll, Denison, and Le Mars Circuits will need to caucus to select their circuit visitor. Results should be reported to the District Secretary. In addition, advisory delegates will meet to elect a delegate to the 2023 Synod Convention.

President Turner declared the convention to be in recess until 3:55 p.m.

### *Call to Order*

The convention reconvened with the singing of hymn #571, "God Loved the World So That He Gave."

President Turner called the convention back to order and reminded the delegates that the results of the circuit caucuses need to be reported to the District Secretary.

Mrs. Carole White from LCEF gave away another gift card.

## *Report of the Assistant to the President for Missions*

President Turner invited the Rev. Keith Haney, Assistant to the President for Missions, to give his report to the convention.

Rev. Haney expressed his thanks for the warm reception he has received in Iowa. His ministry has started with a lot of uncertainty, particularly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He praised the congregations of Iowa District West for adapting well to difficult times, for faithfully having worship and caring for people during the time of the pandemic.

Rev. Haney stated that missions is messy because we are in the midst of an unbelieving world. Yet we are in the hope business--we provide people with hope; we point them to Jesus. We are living in transformational times, but Iowa District West has kept focused on the mission, which is the harvest.

What will the church look like now that the pandemic restrictions are over? People are coming back to churches at a slow rate, but there are not as many attending church as before the pandemic. Rev. Haney encouraged the delegates not to stop online services, but also to encourage people to come back to God's house. People need to be in God's house to receive God's grace, but also to sing God's praises. Rev. Haney noted that when people sing together, the mood is better.

Rev. Haney gave a report on the District Mission Partners--those congregations and ministries in the District that partner with Rev. Haney and the Missions Committee to reach their communities.

1. Shepherd of the Valley, West Des Moines: They have begun a new ethnic ministry, with an Eritrean pastor preparing for Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT).
2. Grace, Le Mars: They have issued a call to The Rev. Daniel Mapur as associate pastor working with Sudanese ministry.
3. Christ Lutheran, Ankeny (formerly The Gate): They now have their own facility, with many new members. The Rev. Mark Gerken has been serving the vacancy. Just before the convention, the Rev. Paul Rieger accepted the call to be their pastor.
4. The Rev. Pedro Lopez is the District's Missionary-at-large for Hispanic Outreach in Storm Lake, Denison and other communities.
5. Siouland Hispanic Ministry (partnership with Nebraska District): They have become self-sufficient.
6. Trinity, Des Moines: A Congolese pastor is ready for EIIT.
7. St. Paul, Webster City: They have a Laotian ministry.

Rev. Haney recommended a video from Lutheran Hour Ministries about the "Hopeful Neighborhood Process." He reported that the District is working on a project called Iowa Ethnic Institute of Theological Training, which involves classes to prepare ethnic immigrants for the rigors of seminary training, helping them to understand Lutheran doctrine and heritage. He mentioned that the National LCMS Hispanic Conference will be held in Florida in August.

Rev. Haney announced that there will be a conversation about singles ministry at dinner, and all are welcome.

President Turner commented on EIIT. It exists to train ethnic immigrant pastors. EIIT provides seminary-level training; it is a four-year process training ethnic leaders to be pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

### *Report of the Missionary-at-Large*

President Turner invited the Rev. Pedro Lopez, Assistant to the President and Missionary-at-Large for Hispanic Outreach, to give his report to the convention.

Rev. Lopez stated that many Hispanic immigrants are coming to America, and many of these do not know the Lord. The Hispanic population in Iowa stands at more than 178,000.

Rev. Lopez reported on the ministry at Grace, Storm Lake, which recently elected its first Hispanic elder. Eight people from the congregation will be attending the National Hispanic Convention in Florida. The congregation averages about 12-17 for their Hispanic worship service and 7-12 for Bible study. Most of those attending are women. Amigos En Cristo, Denison is an organized congregation of the District. Average worship attendance is 15-25; average Bible study attendance is 7-12. Again, most of those attending are women. Rev. Lopez is working to start a Bible study in Carroll. Groups from Storm Lake, Denison, and Sioux City have gotten together for events such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. Volunteers will be selling tacos during RAGBRAI through St. Paul, Ida Grove, to raise money for Hispanic ministry. Prayers and financial support are welcome.

### *David's Harp*

President Turner invited the Rev. Nathan Sherrill, Convention Choir Director, to speak about David's Harp. Rev. Sherrill announced that the choir will meet for 10 minutes before supper to practice for Tuesday's closing service.

Rev. Sherrill reviewed the beginnings of David's Harp. St. Paul, Council Bluffs, has established a music conservatory which now has over 100 students. Formerly a District Mission Partner, they are now self-sufficient. David's Harp was established for outreach through music and has received status as a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. David's Harp prints resources for teaching music and has established music conservatories in congregations and schools throughout the Synod and with LCMS Missions in Asia and Latin America.

### *Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)*

President Turner welcomed Mrs. Penny Schuessler, newly-elected President of the Iowa West District - LWML to the convention. She reported on the Iowa West District LWML Convention held recently at Camp Okoboji. The theme was, "Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord." The District LWML has established a mite goal of over \$164,000 for 11 mission grants over the next two years. The 40th biennial convention of the national LWML will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in June of 2023.

### *Floor Committee 3: Administration and Finances*

President Turner recalled the Rev. Jonathan Riggert, Chairman of Committee 3, to the stage for the continuation of their resolutions.

Rev. Riggert presented Resolution #3-05 on page 19 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To Transfer Property to Memorial Lutheran Church, Ames." The resolution was read with a change to the original wording, inserting the words "and anticipates continued partnership for years to come" before the period in the final *Resolved*. Rev. Riggert moved for its adoption.

A question from the floor asked if a lawyer and a realtor have been consulted since the date of the Floor Committee meeting, which was May 14. President Turner answered in the negative. A delegate asked for the history of the congregation and the property. President Turner referred the delegates to the second WHEREAS, which states that the initial funding for the congregation came from the National Lutheran Education Association and Iowa District West.

The resolution was approved with 84.4% of the vote.

Rev. Riggert presented Resolution #3-06 on page 20 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To Address the Lutheran Teacher Shortage and Low Teacher Salaries by Initiating a Student Debt Assistance Program for LCMS Commissioned Ministers -- Teachers." The resolution was read. Rev. Riggert moved for its adoption.

A question was raised from the floor: can parochial schools hire teachers with experience who do not want to renew their credentials or license due to the cost of renewal? Ms. Rhonda Mohr replied that such a hiring would be a temporary fix; licensed teachers are still needed for accreditation. Ms. Mohr stated that we have been using Lutheran public school teachers in our schools to maintain a Lutheran ethos.

A delegate made the comment that the Synod is discussing this challenge with its "Set Apart to Serve" initiative. Loan forgiveness is one possible solution being discussed, but there are many other ideas which could be presented as memorials to the Synod Convention. The delegate did not offer an amendment, but he encouraged the convention to consider creative solutions to lower the cost of renewal.

The resolution was approved with 68.9% of the vote.

Rev. Riggert presented Resolution #3-07 on page 22 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To Celebrate the Fiscal Transparency and Faithful Stewardship of Iowa District West." The resolution was read. Rev. Riggert moved for its adoption. There was no discussion. The resolution was approved with 91.2% of the vote.

President Turner asked Mr. Scott Ernst, District Treasurer, and Mr. Roger Curtis, District Business Manager, to stand. The convention thanked them with a round of applause.

President Turner dismissed Floor Committee 3, with one resolution yet to be presented.

### *Lutheran Church Extension Fund*

President Turner invited Mrs. Carole White, LCEF Vice-President for Iowa District West, for the LCEF Report. Mrs. White shared that LCEF partners with congregations through

construction loans for purchasing of property, repairs, and church improvement; operating lines of credit; ministry solutions, including capital campaigns, campus master planning, and financial planning; and real estate solutions. Rostered workers, both active and emeritus, may take advantage of residential loans. All this is made possible through investments from individuals and congregations.

Mrs. White mentioned the new Church Worker Steward Account, which is available for any church worker. Not only rostered church workers, but anyone who works in LCMS ministry settings can take advantage of this new account.

#### *Gift Planning Counselor/LCMS Foundation*

President Turner invited Mr. Jim Schroeder, Gift Planning Counselor for Iowa District West, to give his report.

Mr. Schroeder reminded the delegates that members of our churches have their family stories. He showed a picture of his family and commented that every time you take a family picture, you know it could be your last one. He encouraged the delegates to give family members and loved ones a blessing by touching them and expressing their love for them.

The LCMS Foundation was established in 1958. At that time, people were looking for ways to donate assets other than cash. The LCMS Foundation offers Christian estate planning, endowment fund services, and investment services.

Mr. Schroeder told pastors, "There may be a severe financial storm coming for your congregation." He asked pastors, how many funerals have you conducted in the last 20 years? How many will you have in the next 20 years? What is the cost of a pastor's health insurance going to be 20 years from now? These are questions that need to be considered. There are two ways the LCMS Foundation can help congregations prepare. One is to establish an endowment fund; the other is to assist the members of our congregations in making gifts to the congregation's endowment fund. Mr. Schroeder stressed that most estate planning gifts to an endowment fund are completed because someone offered to help.

#### *Luther Classical College*

President Turner invited Mr. Samuel Preus to speak about Luther Classical College.

#### *Announcements, Table Prayer and Recess*

President Turner reminded the delegates that the convention choir will meet for rehearsal before supper.

Chaplain Keuning offered requested prayers for urgent needs and led the convention in a table prayer for dinner. President Turner declared the convention to be in recess until 7:00 p.m.

### **Session 3 Evening Session, Monday, June 27, 2022**

#### *Call to Order*

The assembly gathered with the singing of hymn # 585, "Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide." President Turner declared the convention back in session.

### *Report of the Synod's President*

President Turner invited the Rev. Nabil Nour, Fourth Vice-President of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, to give the Synod President's report.

Rev. Nour apologized because he was feeling under the weather and his voice was failing. He stated that his report would be brief.

Rev. Nour shared that when he addresses congregations and conventions he talks about blessings instead of burdens; delight instead of downcast; salvation instead of sin; triumphs instead of trials. Why? We have been saved. We have the treasures of Word and Sacrament. Rev. Nour shared his own acronym for "Okoboji": **O**utstanding **K**nowledge **O**utdoors **B**lessings **O**f Jesus our **I**mmanuel.

Rev. Nour showed a video giving an overview of the LCMS after the pandemic. God's grace has always been sufficient for us. Is the LCMS perfect? Absolutely not! We have our faults, but we are moving in the right direction. We have a great future. We have the precious treasures of God's Word and the Sacraments. Apart from these, we have nothing else to offer. We don't have all the answers. But we do have God's Word and the life-giving Sacraments.

A question and answer session was held following Rev. Nour's presentation.

Rev. Nour was asked about the situations at Concordia University, Wisconsin (CUW), and Concordia University, Austin, Texas. He responded first to the issues surrounding the presidential search at CUW. Rev. Nour stated that a lot of things were done that were not according to standards. President Harrison has met with both administrative and theological leaders, and changes are coming. There are issues behind the scenes. President Harrison is working hard to bring a godly resolution. Rev. Nour encouraged delegates, "Be patient, and don't assume you know better than those who are dealing with the situation."

As to Concordia, Austin, Rev. Nour stated that we have a confession and we adhere to it. President Harrison is trying to reach out to the leaders at Austin and say, "Let's be confessional, orthodox, and true to the Word." What we have in Scripture is the absolute truth. Thanks be to God, the LCMS still relies on Scripture as its authority.

Rev. Nour excused himself, as he was losing his voice.

### *Close of the Day*

Mrs. Carole White from LCEF gave away another gift card.

President Turner invited the Rev. Nathan Sherrill to lead the closing devotion of the day. Rev. Sherrill was filling in for the Rev. Paul Egger, Second Vice-President of Iowa District West, who had been called away to a pastoral care emergency.

The devotion followed Evening Prayer from *LSB*. The convention sang hymn #616, "Baptismal Waters Cover Me." The reading was from 3 John.

President Turner announced that as The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year, and Iowa is also celebrating its 175th anniversary as a state, there will be cake and ice cream served outside the dining hall following dismissal.

President Turner declared the convention to be in recess until Tuesday morning. Devotions will be at the Point at 7 a.m.

The day concluded with cake and ice cream served outside the dining hall.

#### **Session 4** **Morning Session, Tuesday, June 28, 2022**

##### *Matins and Breakfast*

Tuesday, June 28, 2022 began with Matins at the Point led by the Rev. David Viggers, with the Rev. Zachary Viggers chanting the liturgy. The readings for the day were 1 Samuel 13:1-18 (Saul fights the Philistines) and Acts 23:12-35 (a plot to kill Paul). Who wants to go up against three thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen? That's the situation Saul faced in 1 Samuel 13. Many Israelites were deserting the army. Likewise, we face challenges in our congregations--why are the pews empty? Saul had forgotten God's mighty acts of deliverance, notably the Exodus. So we too sometimes forget that the victory is already won. Through Christ's death and resurrection, our enemies are defeated. Don't worry--God has won the victory. Paul trusted God against 40 men; we can trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, who has already won the victory for us.

Breakfast was served in the Dining Hall at 7:30 a.m.

##### *Morning Devotion*

The opening devotion was given by the Rev. Pedro Lopez, Assistant to the President and District Missionary-at-Large for Hispanic Outreach. The delegates joined in the singing of hymn #808, "Oh, Sing to the Lord," accompanied by Rev. Lopez on guitar. The reading was Romans 10:8-13. Rev. Lopez accompanied the singing of "Amigos de Cristo, We're Friends of the Lord."

Rev. Lopez observed that the Lord calls us, "My friends--my *amigos*." We all bleed the same color. Jesus died for all. Ministry to other ethnic groups is challenging for us, yet we are all brothers and sisters. Many people are coming to the United States from Latin American countries, and they do not know the Lord. We proclaim to them salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Salvation is for Hispanics, for African Americans, for all ethnic groups. The world has come to us. We support missionaries far away, but there is a mission in the United States too.

##### *Call to Order*

President Turner called the convention back into session.

Mrs. Carole White from LCEF gave away another gift card.

President Turner called the convention essayist, the Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, back to the stage for the second part of his presentation. The title of the second part of the presentation was "Flourishing in Partnerships."

Dr. Meyer began by quoting from Romans 10:17: "Faith comes by hearing." In the first decades of the Christian church, there was no Bible. The spoken word was the means by which Jesus was communicated. Dr. Meyer told the delegates that an educated laity that can speak the Word of God comfortably may rejuvenate the church. The cultural changes we have experienced, the decline of the institutional church, can leave many pastors discouraged. Dr. Meyer encouraged the delegates that the changes we are going through now will be beneficial to the church, but only God knows how.

Dr. Meyer said, "It's a great time to be the church." Some may ask, "How can you say that?" The answer is, it's the church of the Lord Jesus, who has ascended and is ruling over all things for the good of His church. There is grief among us because the country has changed. This isn't the "Christian America" we grew up with. But at the end of the day, it's still the church of the Lord Jesus. In some ways, we have been living by sight and not by faith. We are not hearing the heavenly anthem that "drowns all music but its own" (LSB #525, v. 1). It is our call to hear that heavenly anthem more and more.

Dr. Meyer spoke of what happens when the church minimizes Christ's ascension, His sitting at the right hand of God, and His imminent appearing in glory. Cultural changes and decline have brought a gloom over the church. Matthew Arnold referred to "the melancholy, long, withdrawing roar" of faith leaving the culture, and George Will notes that this may leave the culture "susceptible to *feverish quests for redemption through political action*" (Quotation 17 in the handout, emphasis Meyer's). Brent Orrel notes that "American religious belief and practice have been overtaken by a spiritual ennui and drift" (Quotation 19 in the handout). There are reasons for the decline in church participation, church attendance, and church membership. Meyer noted that religion in western culture "is compartmentalized to Sunday and church...and not integral to the daily lives of many parishioners...and increasingly irrelevant to public life. Hence, we can become 'functional atheists'" (Quotation 12 in the handout).

Parker J. Palmer defines "functional atheism" as "the belief that the ultimate responsibility for everything rests with us" (Quotation 14 in the handout). As a result, the government and the economy have become pervasive. The state is stepping in for God. Individualism, a defining facet of our culture, strengthens the individual, but it also strengthens a central government (Quotation 16 in the handout).

Dr. Meyer shared that he has been studying 1 Peter. He noted that when we hear the word "you" in our culture, we hear singular, not plural. In contrast, "you" in 1 Peter is almost always plural. "You" is partnership--all of you. We are bound to one another. Theologically, man is "curved in on himself" (*incurvatus in se*). When we turn in on ourselves, we are not turned to God and our Savior. Oz Guinness remarks, "Many modern Christian believers are atheists unawares" (Quotation 13 in the handout).

Dr. Meyer repeated his assertion from the first presentation that we need to see life with Christ as He is today, through the lens of His sitting at the right hand of God and coming again.

He quoted N. T. Wright at length (see Quotation 20 in the handout). "What happens when you downplay or ignore the ascension? The answer is that the church expands to fill the vacuum." The Church is not equal to Jesus; rather, Jesus is Lord of the Church. We sometimes point people to the promise of the resurrection and ignore the ascension. Christ is Lord. He is coming again. "The Sacraments are about forgiveness and the future" (Quotation 21 in the handout). Quoting Wright again, "There will indeed be a judgment in which the creator God will set the world right once and for all" (Quotation 26 in the handout).

James Davidson Hunter remarks that "There is a yearning for a different way, especially among the young, a way that has integrity with the historic truths of the faith and that is adequate to the challenges of the present moment (Quotation 28 in the handout). Dr. Meyer stated that we have that in our risen and ascended Lord Jesus Christ. It's a great time to be the church!

President Turner gave thanks to God, and thanked Dr. Meyer for being our essayist and for his 50 years of service to the church. The assembly joined in a round of applause.

### *Mission Central Report*

President Turner welcomed Mr. Gary Thies to the stage for the Mission Central Report.

Mr. Thies gave the 11-month fiscal year report for Mission Central. He began by saying, "God's work done in God's way will never lack God's support." Mr. Thies reported that there have been over 5,000 visitors to Mission Central in the past year. Mission Central has a staff of two and uses 105 volunteers. Mission Central has been serving Iowa District West and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for 28 years. The addition of the Creation Theater has attracted many people. Mr. Thies showed a picture of his "resurrection spot" at Mission Central. Christians don't have gravesites; they have resurrection sites.

Mr. Thies reported that yearly cash and gifts to date in support of missionaries have amounted to over \$10 million. Over \$127 million has been given to missionaries through Mission Central since its beginning 28 years ago. This is what God can do. Mr. Thies spoke at the LWML National Convention in 2021. He expressed that it has been a blessing to work with the LWML. Mr. Thies thanked President Turner and the District for their partnership, love, prayers, and support over the last 28 years.

### *Greetings from the Nebraska District*

The Rev. Richard Snow, President of the Nebraska District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, brought greetings to the convention. Commenting on the "Partnership" theme, Rev. Snow stated that the church is the body of Christ. We need each other. He noted that Iowa District West and the Nebraska District were partners as Mission Central began 28 years ago. God has chosen us together to be part of His work.

Rev. Snow also noted that Gary Thies will be celebrating his 80th birthday on August 28. The convention sang "Happy Birthday" to Mr. Thies. Birthday cake will be served at lunch today.

### *Recess and Call to Order*

President Turner declared the convention in recess until 10:30 a.m.

The assembly gathered with the singing of hymn # 794 "The Lord, My God, Be Praised."

Mrs. Carole White from LCEF gave away another gift card.

President Turner called for another test of the voting machines. The question was whether delegates would prefer to have the evening meal in the dining hall or as a take-home sack. The vote was 119-1 in favor of the take-home option.

President Turner called the convention back to order.

### *Lutheran Family Service*

President Turner called for the report from Lutheran Family Service (LFS). Representing LFS were the Rev. Max Philips, Executive Director, and the Rev. James Lamb.

Rev. Phillips shared that Lutheran Family Service is the oldest mission organization in Iowa, having been organized in 1901. Adoption has always been part of the focus of LFS and its predecessor organization. Adoption today is changing. The definition of family is changing. LFS continues to adopt children into Christian families, providing them homes with a husband and a wife. Today, Christian adoption is being persecuted throughout the country. LFS pregnancy counselors have been stressed with the changing landscape.

Rev. Phillips gave an update on the recent Supreme Court decision repealing *Roe v. Wade*. Had *Roe v. Wade* not been overturned, Iowa may have become a state where people would come for abortions. Ten days before the convention, the Iowa Supreme Court overturned its previous decision and ruled that there is no right to abortion granted in the Iowa constitution. An LCMS judge from Cedar Rapids presented the decision.

Lutheran Family Service is expanding into other districts. Partnerships have recently been established with the South Dakota and North Dakota Districts. LFS has begun talking with the Nebraska District as well.

Rev. Lamb spoke about how LFS is expanding the number of counselors for individuals, couples, and families in crisis. He shared his own experience in being helped by a Christian counselor. Rev. Lamb said that there is a need for Christian, clinically trained counselors. Church workers are experiencing stress from financial concerns, anxiety, depression, and compulsive behaviors. They are often in need of Christian counseling.

Rev. Lamb spoke to an upcoming resolution (#2-06) which proposed to expand the partnership of Lutheran Family Service with churches and church workers. The initiative is called, "Healthy Workers, Healthy Church." The proposal would expand the number of counselors for church workers and specialists in church worker counseling; establish internship programs, and provide a pathway for pastors to become licensed therapists. In addition, the proposal seeks to increase the number of in-person counseling sites and expand telehealth. LFS is asking the District for a \$400,000 gift as a catalyst for reaching its goal of \$2.8 million.

### *Floor Committee 2: Mission and Ministry*

In response to the report of Lutheran Family Service, President Turner invited the Rev. Jonathan Conner, Chairman of Committee 2, back to the stage.

Rev. Conner presented Resolution #2-06 on page 11 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To Support New Efforts of Lutheran Family Service to Serve the Church and its Workers." The resolution was read and Rev. Conner moved for its adoption.

A delegate asked where the funds for the District's lead gift would come from. Mr. Stan Ullerich, Chairman of the Board of Directors, answered that Iowa District West has been blessed financially. Iowa District West has an endowment made up of different properties and investments which is able to fund the proposed gift. He spoke in favor of the motion, expressing confidence that this is a good investment of the gifts that have been given to Iowa District West.

Rev. Nabil Nour asked the delegates to remember that God will provide the money when it is needed for ministry to those in need.

A delegate asked for clarification to make sure the funds were coming from the endowment and would not negatively affect the financial situation of the District. Rev. Conner answered on behalf of the committee that it would not negatively affect the District. Another delegate spoke in favor of the motion.

With discussion concluded, the resolution was approved with 99.4% of the vote.

This concluded the work of Floor Committee 2. Rev. Conner introduced the members of his committee. President Turner dismissed the committee with the thanks of the convention.

### *Floor Committee 3: Administration and Finances*

President Turner recalled the Rev. Jonathan Riggert, Chairman of Committee 3, to the stage for the presentation of their final resolution.

Rev. Riggert presented Resolution #3-08 on page 23 of the *Convention Resolutions*: "To Permit Greater Flexibility in the Ministry for the District President." The resolution was read with a change to the final *Resolved*, adding the words "approved provisionally, pending CCM review per Synod Handbook 3.9.2.2.3 (b) and" between the words "be" and "amended" in the original resolution. Riggert moved for adoption.

An amendment was proposed to remove the second and third "WHEREASes" from the resolution. The amendment was seconded. The delegate making the amendment explained that there may be a conflict with the doctrine of the Synod which could cause the CCM to reject the resolution. The amendment was approved with 79% of the vote.

Discussion was held on the resolution as amended. The Rev. John Koopman, who had submitted the original overture, explained the rationale for the resolution. With pastoral shortage, it may be necessary for the District President to serve in a congregation. Another delegate spoke in favor of the resolution. A third delegate asked whether the proposed bylaw change would apply only to Iowa District West. Rev. Riggert and President Turner answered in the affirmative.

The resolution was approved as amended, with 92.2% of the vote.

This concluded the work of Floor Committee 3. Rev. Riggert introduced the members of his committee. The committee was dismissed with the thanks of the convention.

### *Report of the Assistant to the President for Stewardship and Human Care*

President Turner invited the Rev. B. Keith Haney, Assistant to the President for Stewardship and Human Care, to give his report to the convention.

Rev. Haney gave his report on Human Care. He spoke of the challenges the church faces in caring for its workers. Rev. Haney reported that 42% of pastors have considered quitting the ministry. Factors that lead pastors to consider quitting include stress, isolation, and political divisions. Important factors for those who did not consider quitting are commitment to their calling, satisfaction with ministry, and the support of their congregations. The Human Care Committee is partnering with Doxology for a "Take Heart" retreat for church workers in January 2023.

Rev. Haney asked, "What are healthy congregations?" Healthy congregations have members who are in God's Word. The District is planning to offer workshops to help ground congregations and their leadership in the Word of God.

Rev. Haney reported that the Human Care Committee is updating the list of parish nurses in Iowa District West. The committee is also looking for the names of chaplains, particularly in the Des Moines and Sioux City areas.

Rev. Haney showed a video from Synod President Harrison highlighting the Synod's Life Ministry. The video told about matching grants available from the Synod to congregations which have ministries supporting life.

Rev. Haney gave his report on Stewardship. A new resource from Stewardship Advisors (Ron Chewning) is available through the District. Ramsey+, a resource for financial planning, is available to church workers at a cost of \$25. These materials may be used to teach stewardship and financial planning to congregation members.

Rev. Haney reported that workshops are planned for 2022 and 2023 dealing with electronic communications.

Rev. Haney invited the Rev. Mark Kluzek to the stage to speak about singles ministry. A new singles ministry in Iowa District West is in the exploratory stages. The ministry will be called, "Heartland Lutheran Singles." Anyone interested in singles ministry may contact Rev. Kluzek for more information.

### *Installation of District President*

President Turner called on the Rev. Nabil Nour, Fourth Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, to conduct the installation of the Rev. Dr. Steven Turner as President of Iowa District West. The installation was moved forward in the orders of the day because Rev. Nour needed to leave for an afternoon doctor's appointment. Rev. Richard Snow, President of the Nebraska District, read the Scriptures. Rev. Nour installed Rev. Dr. Turner as President of Iowa District West for the 2022-2025 triennium.

Rev. Nour thanked the convention for their hospitality, and thanked the Lord for the opportunity to be present for the convention.

### *Prayer Before Lunch*

Chaplain Jeffrey Keuning led the convention in prayer for special needs, especially for Rev. Nour in his travels and for his doctor's appointment. He also offered table prayer for lunch.

### *Recess and Lunch*

President Turner declared the convention to be in recess until 1:00 p.m.

Lunch was held in the Dining Hall.

## **Session 5 Afternoon Session, Tuesday, June 28, 2022**

### *Call to Order*

The assembly gathered with the singing of hymn #647 "Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head."

President Turner called the convention back to order.

Mrs. Carole White from LCEF gave away another gift card.

### *Greetings from Brotherhood Mutual*

President Turner invited the representative from Brotherhood Mutual to the stage for greetings. Brotherhood Mutual partners with the congregations of Iowa District West through insurance, risk management, and other resources to protect the church. Brotherhood Mutual held a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate.

Also holding drawings for prizes were the Rev. Mick Wolfram, Lutheran Family Service; and Mr. Bill Wright for the two LCMS seminaries.

### *Greetings from Lutheran Laymen's League*

Mr. Mark Astleford brought greetings from the Lutheran Laymen's League. The LLL originated at the 1917 Synod Convention. Twelve laymen joined together to raise funds to eliminate the Synod's debt, and within a year they had raised enough to erase the debt. For more than 100 years, the Lutheran Laymen's League has been partnering with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, sponsoring the Lutheran Hour radio broadcast and the "This Is the Life" television series. The LLL has the only Christian float in the annual Rose Parade in Pasadena, California. The Petal Pushers from Iowa District West work on the float every year. The District LLL hosts two Men's Bible Studies every year. They also work with the Iowa District East LLL to sponsor a booth at the Iowa State Fair. Workers are needed for this year's fair.

### *Greetings from Lutheran Bible Translators*

President Turner invited the Rev. Brent Smith to the stage. Rev. Smith brought greetings from Lutheran Bible Translators. Lutheran Bible Translators was the first Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German in 1522. This year marks the 500th anniversary of Luther's translation. Bible translation continues today. Over 2,750 languages in the world today have little or no written Scripture. Lutheran Bible Translators currently has 104 active language translation projects. LBT has welcomed a new missionary from Iowa District West. Tiffany Smith from Earlham will be helping with Bible translation in Tanzania.

### *IOWAY Director and Disaster Response Coordinator*

President Turner called on Mrs. Ellie Menz, IOWAY Director and Disaster Response Coordinator for Iowa District West, for her report.

Mrs. Menz stated that IOWAY stands for Individual Outreach With Adults and Youth. IOWAY is involved in personalizing missions. God calls us to action. IOWAY has led 44 mission trips, with 624 individuals participating.

Other IOWAY projects include working with the homeless and near homeless; outreach with three public schools in Des Moines; "Takin' It to the Streets" in Council Bluffs; Mercy Meals in Sioux City; Crossroads of Crawford County in Denison; Global Health Ministries in Minneapolis; sponsoring children in Haiti; school supplies for Lewisburg, West Virginia; Petal Pushers; and LOT318 Computer Lab.

Mrs. Menz is also the Disaster Response Coordinator for the District. Her job involves LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) training and recruiting volunteers to help when disasters happen. There are four LERT trailers in Iowa District West. Teams from Iowa District West have also helped with disasters in other states.

Mrs. Menz concluded her report by reminding delegates of IOWAY's mission statement: "Honoring God by Serving Others."

### *Election of Circuit Visitors*

President Turner called on the Rev. Tim Geitz, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, to present the slate of those nominated for Circuit Visitor.

The nominees for Circuit Visitor were as follows.

Adair Circuit (1) - The Rev. Jeffrey Keuning  
Algona Circuit (2) - The Rev. Scott Kozizek  
Boone Circuit (3) - The Rev. Stephen Ude  
Carroll Circuit (4) - The Rev. Jonathan Conner  
Cherokee Circuit (5) - The Rev. Don Meyer  
Council Bluffs Circuit (6) - The Rev. David Kuhnle  
Denison Circuit (7) - The Rev. Chad Trunkhill  
Des Moines East Circuit (8) - The Rev. Michael Barnes

Des Moines West Circuit (9) - The Rev. James Stogdill  
Fort Dodge Circuit (10) - The Rev. Kendall Meyer  
Le Mars Circuit (11) - The Rev. Michael Boothby  
Mapleton Circuit (12) - The Rev. Richard Salcido  
Spencer Circuit (13) - The Rev. Michael McGinley  
Sac City Circuit (14) - The Rev. David Lyons  
Sioux City Circuit (15) - The Rev. James Travis  
Southwest Circuit (16) - The Rev. John Rutz  
Storm Lake Circuit (17) - The Rev. Bradley Ketcham

The slate of candidates was ratified by the Convention, and this ratification constitutes election. This concluded the work of the Nominating Committee. President Turner dismissed the committee with the thanks of the convention.

#### *Advisory Delegate to the 2023 Synod Convention*

The Rev. Mark Gerken announced that he will be the District's advisory delegate to the Synod Convention in Milwaukee in 2023. The alternate is the Rev. Michael Wolfram.

#### *Memorial Service*

The Rev. Roger Carlisle, First Vice-President of Iowa District West, led the Memorial Service for those rostered servants of the Lord who had been called to glory during the past triennium.

The assembly joined in the singing of hymn #644, "The Church's One Foundation."

The Scripture reading was Revelation 7:9-17. The convention choir sang, "Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See."

Rev. Carlisle preached a homily on the text. In Revelation 7, we see those who have believed the Lord on earth around the throne of God in heaven--thousands upon thousands of Christians gathered to be with Jesus, giving praise to God. Today we honor the commitment of those partners in the Gospel who served as workers in His harvest field and now stand before the throne of God, having received the crown of righteousness. The servants will see the fruit of their labors. They are dressed in white robes, washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. Jesus has washed their sins away. We also have that forgiveness through the blood of the Lamb. In Holy Baptism our robes are washed clean, and heaven will be ours also. At the center is Jesus, sitting on the throne. He is the heart of heaven. God will dwell eternally with His people. "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

The assembly sang selected verses of hymn #677, "For All the Saints."

The names of commissioned ministers called to glory since the 2018 convention were read:

+Everett Thies -- April 28, 2018  
+Edwin Termunde -- August 20, 2018  
+Viola Ehlers -- February 14, 2021  
+Dale Haake -- September 22, 2021

The names of ordained ministers called to glory since the 2018 convention were read:

- +Pastor Theodore Letzring, EM, Alta -- August 6, 2018
- +Pastor Allen Henderson, senior pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge -- October 2, 2019
- +Pastor Reynold Petersen, EM, Wall Lake -- October 29, 2019
- +Pastor Lee Mentink, EM, Le Mars -- November 3, 2019
- +Pastor Gerald Milbrath, EM, Council Bluffs, December 30, 2019
- +Pastor Kenneth Belz, EM, Adel -- January 8, 2020
- +Pastor Stephen King, EM, Perry -- February 12, 2020
- +Pastor Leland Schmidt, EM, Sioux City -- March 6, 2020
- +Pastor Simon Yiech, sole pastor of Sudanese Mission Church, Ankeny -- October 11, 2020
- +Pastor Roland Pillack, EM, Des Moines -- December 29, 2020
- +Pastor Charles Horkey, sole pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux City -- January 14, 2022
- +Pastor Donald Winterrowd, EM, Ida Grove -- June 2, 2022

The names of congregations closed since the 2018 convention were read:

- St. John Lutheran Church, Adair, disbanded September 23, 2018
- St. Luke Lutheran Church, Ricketts, disbanded September 30, 2018
- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Adair, disbanded June 2, 2019
- Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Norwalk, disbanded September 23, 2019
- Concordia Lutheran Church, Sioux City, disbanded August 1, 2021
- First Lutheran Church, Fonda, disbanded August 28, 2021

The Memorial Service concluded with the singing of hymn #461, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives."

### *Installation of Officers*

President Turner installed the Rev. Jonathan Riggert as Second Vice-President of Iowa District West. The Rev. Paul Egger, who was elected First Vice-President of Iowa District West, was called away from the convention. He will be installed at the next Board of Directors Meeting August 10-11.

President Turner installed the Circuit Visitors into their respective offices. All received blessings and handshakes from President Turner.

Finally, President Turner conducted the installation service for the elected members of the Board of Directors who were present at the convention. Those who were not present will be installed at the Board of Directors meeting August 10-11.

### *Committee 4: Convention Minutes Review*

President Turner called on the Rev. Edward Durand, Chairman of Committee 4, Convention Minutes Review. Rev. Durand introduced the members of his committee. The committee will be meeting at a later date to review the minutes of the convention.

### *Committee 1: Registration and Credentials*

President Turner called on the Rev. Donald Peterson for the final report from Committee 1: Registration and Credentials. The final report was as follows:

Voting Pastoral Delegates	99
Voting Lay Delegates	105
<b>Total Voting Delegates</b>	<b>204</b>
Advisory Pastors	6
Commissioned Ministers	6
Emeritus Pastors	8
Exhibitors	18
Visitors/Guests	16
District Staff	10
<b>Total Registered</b>	<b>268</b>

Rev. Peterson introduced the members of his committee. The committee was dismissed with the thanks of the convention.

### *Recognition and Thanks*

President Turner asked the following individuals to be recognized and thanked them for their service to the convention:

Mrs. Sarah Wudtke, Public Relations and Communications  
The Rev. David Viggers and the Rev. Zachary Viggers, Morning Devotions at the Point  
The Rev. Jeffrey Keuning, Convention Chaplain  
The Rev. Richard Merrill, District Secretary  
The Rev. Joshua Lowe, Assistant Secretary  
Mr. Tim Buelow, Parliamentarian  
The Rev. Alex Slotter, Judge of Elections  
The Rev. Timothy Frank, Convention Organist  
The Rev. Nathan Sherrill, Convention Choir Director  
The Rev. Dr. Keith Schweitzer, Convention Photographer

The outgoing members of the Board of Directors were recognized and thanked for their service to the District:

Mr. Stan Ullerich, Chairman of the Board of Directors  
The Rev. Scott Kozisek, Education Committee Chairman  
The Rev. Bruce Lesemann, Missions Committee Chairman  
The Rev. Jonathan Conner, Stewardship Committee Chairman  
The Rev. Jonathan Riggert, Youth Committee Chairman  
The Rev. Daniel Vogel, Ordained Minister Member-at-Large  
Mr. Tim Buelow, Lay Member-at-Large  
Mrs. Jane Morris, Lay Member-at-Large

President Turner thanked Mr. Kirk Warnke, Director of Camp Okoboji, and the camp staff for their hospitality in hosting the convention.

### *Omnibus Resolution*

The Omnibus Resolution (Page 24 of the *Convention Resolutions*) came before the convention. The resolution was read. There was a motion to approve, followed by a second. The resolution was approved by voice vote.

### *Recognition of District Staff*

President Turner brought forward the District Staff:

Mr. Roger Curtis, District Business Manager and Convention Business Manager  
Mrs. Sue Light, Administrative Assistant  
Mrs. Jill Davis, Administrative Assistant  
Ms. Rhonda Mohr and Rev. Keith Haney, Convention Managers and Assistants to the  
President  
Mrs. Carole White, LCEF  
Mrs. Ellie Menz, IOWAY Director

President Turner thanked his staff personally. The convention then thanked the staff with a round of applause.

### *Closing of the Convention*

President Turner asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved by voice vote. President Turner declared the convention to be closed "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" at 2:27 p.m.

President Turner led the convention in a prayer of thanksgiving for this convention and for safe travel home.

The convention sang as a closing hymn # 922 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing."

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Richard Merrill  
District Secretary

RESOLUTION #2-01: To Receive Faith Lutheran Church of Winterset, Madison County, Iowa,  
as a Member Congregation of Iowa District West

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
JUNE 26-29, 2022

WHEREAS, Faith Lutheran Church of Winterset, Madison County, Iowa, has submitted a Constitution and Articles of Incorporation that have been approved by the Commission on Constitutions of Iowa District West; and

WHEREAS, Those individuals affiliated with Faith Lutheran Church of Winterset, Madison County, Iowa, have adopted said Constitution and Articles of Incorporation and submitted them to the Board of Directors of Iowa District West as an application for membership; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of Iowa District West, meeting on May 12, 2022 accepted the submitted application; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That Faith Lutheran Church of Winterset, Madison County, Iowa, be received as a member congregation of Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and be it further

*Resolved*, That thanks be given to God for the blessing of another partner congregation for the extension of the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District and into all the world; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That such thanksgiving and approval of this resolution be expressed by the convention delegates rising and singing the common doxology.

Respectfully submitted,  
Floor Committee 2 Missions and Ministry

**Action: Adopted (1)**

(Res. 2-01 [*Convention Resolutions* p. 3] was adopted unanimously, without discussion. The approval of this resolution was done through the singing of the common doxology.)

RESOLUTION #2-02: To Affirm and Support the Work of Lutheran Family Service  
OVERTURE #2-05 (*Overtures, p. 10-11*)

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
JUNE 26-28, 2022

WHEREAS, We recognize that our culture increasingly promotes values and choices that are in direct opposition to God's design which impacts the individuals, couples and families within our congregations and the communities in which we live; and

WHEREAS, Evidence of pain and suffering in the lives of children, young adults, married couples, individuals and families is apparent, including the number who live with mental illness, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, divorce, grandparents raising grandchildren, single parent families, co-habitation before or instead of marriage, unplanned pregnancy, abortion, and life-threatening sexually transmitted diseases; and

WHEREAS, We look to and believe in Scripture as the definitive source for moral decision making and direction for God-pleasing behavior in individual, marital and family life, including affirming the biblical and traditional definition of one man-one woman marriage for life, the value of God's gift of sexuality to be shared in marriage in a way that honors each partner; and the protection of children from abuse in any form including death by abortion; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service (LFS) is expanding their efforts to combat the destructive influence of our culture, providing outreach to and through our congregations focused on reaching: young people through group presentations, promoting God-pleasing decision making and life-style choices; married couples through retreats and educational events designed to strengthen and enrich marital relationships as well as education and encouragement for their friends and family members, providing resources to support and restore those at risk for divorce; and spouses and family members experiencing the stress of caring for a dependent loved one near life's end, providing helpful resources and tools for caregivers; and

WHEREAS, LFS employs Masters-trained, licensed counselors deployed around the state who can diagnose and treat a full range of mental health disorders including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress and personality disorders, utilizing a sliding scale allowing anyone to receive service regardless of their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, LFS is regularly called upon to provide emergency support for congregations, communities and individuals experiencing the trauma of violence, unexpected death, abuse and/or other calamity; and

WHEREAS, LFS counselors are also trained and experienced in providing marriage counseling to couples experiencing conflict to restore relationships instead of moving toward divorce, also provided on an ability to pay basis; and

WHEREAS, LFS employs professionally trained and certified social workers who provide crisis pregnancy counseling throughout the state at no cost for young women, young men and their families experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, working with each toward a life-giving plan for successful parenting or placement with a waiting adopting family; and

WHEREAS, LFS provides adoption services throughout the state for married male-female couples who desire to build their family through adoption and provide family for a child/children, including adoption of newborn infants and those in frozen embryonic state; and

WHEREAS, LFS employs staff who work to activate and equip individuals, pastors, and congregations to engage in supporting our LCMS and other elected officials to uphold the value, purpose, and sanctity of all human life from the moment of fertilization to natural death; and

WHEREAS, The need for the ministry and work of LFS is increasing and they desire to provide more services in closer proximity to all of our LCMS congregations; and

WHEREAS, LFS provides all these services on behalf of our congregations, in large part through local Iowa support without funding from the Synod, and without the use of state or federal government funding so as not to limit their intentionally Christ-centered message, ministry and witness; and

WHEREAS, Each LCMS congregation in Iowa shares equal and joint ownership of Lutheran Family Service, a Recognized Service Organization of the Synod, which has historically and currently demonstrated its unwavering commitment to remain faithful to the values, beliefs and teachings of the Holy Scriptures and the church; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the pastors and members of our congregations be encouraged to partner with, use and encourage others outside of our church family to use the services provided by Lutheran Family Service; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That each congregation be encouraged to provide consistent annual financial support (in an amount equal to 3% of its yearly budget) directly to Lutheran Family Service so that they can continue and expand their services in response to the increasing needs of individuals, couples, children, and families throughout the state.

Respectfully submitted,  
Floor Committee 2 Mission and Ministry

**Action: Adopted (2)**

(Res. 2-02 [*Convention Resolutions* pp. 4-5] was adopted with no discussion [Yes: 168; No: 21].)

RESOLUTION #2-03: To Encourage Outreach and Sharing among our Congregations  
OVERTURE # 2-03 (*Overtures*, p. 6-7)

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
JUNE 26-28, 2022

WHEREAS, God’s desire is that all be saved (1 Tim. 2:4) and this is only possible by the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12); and

WHEREAS, Our Lord has given to all who are baptized the opportunity and responsibility “to proclaim the excellencies of him who called [us] out of darkness” as part of the priesthood of all believers (1 Pet. 2:9); and

WHEREAS, The mission of Iowa District West (IDW) is: “On a mission to support Christ’s mission,” which happens as the District partners with the member congregations for the extension of the Gospel **within our neighborhoods, rural, urban and small-town communities**, throughout the District and into all the world; and

WHEREAS, The mission emphasis in IDW for 2022 and beyond is (as referenced in the 2022 mission report from the IDW Assistant to the President for Missions, Stewardship, and Human Care): Through the work of the Holy Spirit, IDW seeks to expand and enhance ministry among our new interethnic mission leaders by partnering with our two seminary programs we have established to equip men for the Office of Holy Ministry; and

WHEREAS, Population growth necessitates the development of new ministries and increased support for existing ministries. The greater Des Moines area is amid a 16.7% growth rate compared to neighboring cities (Omaha with 10.3%, Minneapolis at 9.7% and Kansas City at 8.2% [Source: dsmpartnership.com - Greater Des Moines (DSM) Is Fastest Growing Major Midwest Metro]); and

WHEREAS, Rural and small community areas have unique ministry opportunities to focus on their strengths of being communities of care centered on the Gospel of Jesus. Small-town and rural churches have a special interconnectedness with their communities and IDW will partner with our churches to strengthen our rural and small-town churches as they share the Gospel in their communities; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That each congregation, school, and ministry within IDW be encouraged—partnering with other congregations, ministries, and the District, to implement (before the next District Convention) at least one new mission outreach objective concentrating on connecting to the unchurched of its own community; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the District will provide congregations, ministries, and schools with resources, workshops, best practices and other tools to assist them in their ministry that fulfills Acts 1:8; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That we encourage the congregations, ministries, and schools of IDW to share their stories and ideas of their outreach efforts in their communities so that we can celebrate what God is doing in our midst and as a source of encouragement to other congregations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Floor Committee 2 Mission and Ministry

**Action: Adopted (2)**

(Res. 2-03 [*Convention Resolutions* pp. 6-7] was adopted with no discussion [Yes: 172; No: 17].)

RESOLUTION #2-04: To Recognize and Thank The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and  
Lutheran Church Extension Fund for the Strengthened and Expanded  
“Soldiers of the Cross” COVID-19 Response Initiative  
OVERTURE #2-02 (*Overtures, p. 5*)

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
JUNE 26-28, 2022

WHEREAS, The Pandemic of 2020 shuttered congregations and schools in the middle of the year, furloughed workers and caused others to pivot towards a digital presence for which they were unprepared; and

WHEREAS, Many of our congregations, schools and workers were without the additional tuition, offering or budget income needed to support the immediate response to the transition and additional regulations that were placed upon them through the Centers for Disease Control and the Executive orders of national, state, and local governments; and

WHEREAS, The need for compassionate support and financial assistance was great; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) worked together to identify funds for immediate assistance for all who serve in Lutheran ministries; and

WHEREAS, Many of our workers who were both rostered and lay benefited from this generous act of compassion; and

WHEREAS, As of October 1, 2021, more than \$1,585,635.00 was awarded to 943 workers, including \$12,000 that helped six Iowa District West workers; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That on behalf of the workers of our Lutheran congregations, schools, and childcare centers, the Iowa District West in convention publicly thank God for the generosity of His people, The LCMS and LCEF for supporting all who serve in our congregations, schools and childcare centers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Floor Committee 2 Mission and Ministry

**Action: Adopted (2)**

(Res. 2-04 [*Convention Resolutions* p. 8] was adopted with no discussion [Yes: 180; No: 6].)

RESOLUTION #2-05: To Promote and Protect Comprehensive Wellness of Church Workers  
OVERTURE #2-01 (*Overtures, p. 3-4*)

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
JUNE 26-28, 2022

WHEREAS, God has established The Office of the Holy Ministry so that man may obtain faith from God through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments (AC V); and

WHEREAS, The men who hold this Office, as well as those church workers who serve in other offices which support the Office of the Holy Ministry, face significant stresses including rapidly changing cultural norms, pandemic responses impacting pastoral care protocol, social isolation, financial pressures, and distance from the natural support of the family, all of which negatively impacts their physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual wellness (as outlined in 2012 Resolution 2-04A, see next whereas); and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2-04A, adopted by the 2012 Convention of Iowa District West, encourages congregations to protect their pastor's work-life balance, defend opportunities for their pastors to engage in healthy interaction with peers, and allow them the time and resources to take advantage of the Synod's worker wellness programs; and

WHEREAS, The Iowa District West Compensation Recommendations encourage congregations to provide healthcare insurance coverage for their commissioned and ordained workers and families; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in its 2016 convention, adopted Resolution 17-01, "To Enhance Clergy Continuing Education" which encourages the use of Post-Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS) in all districts in the Synod since it was created to facilitate pastors' and their wives' transition from seminary to their first call. PALS was developed with the understanding that the first call in ministry can be a difficult experience, with challenging adjustments; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That congregations in Iowa District West be encouraged to promote and contribute to the comprehensive wellness of their church workers by ensuring that their church workers are allowed adequate time off to properly serve their vocations toward their families as outlined in the District Compensation Recommendations (family/relational wellness); and be it further

*Resolved*, That congregations also promote comprehensive wellness in their workers by providing the financial cost of continuing education, professional church worker conferences, sabbaticals, and other opportunities for professional enrichment and personal growth while recognizing that these opportunities are working events and not vacation time (professional wellness); and be it further

*Resolved*, That leaders of congregations in Iowa District West be encouraged to read through the entirety of the District Compensation Recommendations; and be it further

*Resolved*, That congregations also promote comprehensive wellness by allowing appropriate flexibility, when possible, in their workers' weekly schedule to make necessary provisions for continued physical wellness and mental health; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the President, Circuit Visitors, and Assistants to the President of Iowa District West faithfully encourage congregations to increase their awareness of the state of wellness of their workers and families, proactively attending to any unmet needs that are identified; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That the Iowa District West Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support research and distribute information to help congregations and their workers relate to one another in healthy ways, and that the Commission establish an educational program to instruct congregational leaders about providing for the comprehensive wellness of their pastors and other church workers in the ways described in this resolution.

Respectfully submitted,  
Floor Committee 2 Mission and Ministry

**Action: Adopted (2)**

(Res. 2-05 [*Convention Resolutions* pp. 9-10] was adopted with no discussion [Yes: 180; No: 6].)

RESOLUTION #2-06: To Support New Efforts of Lutheran Family Service to Serve the Church  
and its Workers

OVERTURE #2-04 (*Overtures*, p. 8-9)

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
JUNE 26-28, 2022

WHEREAS, God speaks about the church's care for those He calls to serve in ministry. As we remain aware of the "times and the seasons," and as we await, "the day of the Lord," God's Word says, "We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work." (1 Thessalonians 5: 12-13); and

WHEREAS, Rostered church workers and their families who serve in parish ministry, Lutheran education, ancillary and Recognized Service Organizations of the LCMS for the sake of the Gospel work under daily pressure as they serve in settings where dramatic changes in culture increasingly and profoundly challenge historic and biblically-based norms for living, resulting in a demonstrably negative impact on their physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual well-being; and

WHEREAS, A synod-wide worker-wellness survey conducted in 2017 (contact Lutheran Family Service for a copy) discovered that among its workers, there were many challenges negatively affecting their ministry resulting in serious conditions such as increasing anxiety, depression, isolation and other limiting ailments. These challenges for our workers have only grown through the COVID pandemic as confirmed by an LFS study of Iowa church workers which found that nearly half have concern for their own or their family's mental health; and

WHEREAS, Lutheran Family Service, a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS and a ministry extension of the 282 LCMS congregations in Iowa, is preparing to grow their ministry team of masters level, licensed counselors to meet the greatly expanding need for mental health, marriage and family counseling; and

WHEREAS, In response to this growing crisis, Lutheran Family Service is launching a special campaign in 2022 to raise \$2.8 million needed to support this expansion effort over the next three years; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the congregations in Iowa District West gathered in convention at Camp Okoboji in June 2022 direct IDW to make a lead gift in the amount of \$400,000, paid over 3 years, in amounts of \$150,000 in 2022, \$150,000 in 2023, and \$100,000 in 2024, through stewardship of funds entrusted to Iowa District West, as directed by the Board of Directors; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That the member congregations, organizations, and individuals of the LCMS in Iowa District West be encouraged to prayerfully consider the growing need and to respond by making a special gift to the Lutheran Family Service campaign, even as they continue their prayers and annual financial support of all areas of Lutheran Family Service ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Floor Committee 2 Mission and Ministry

**Action: Adopted (4)**

(Res. 2-06 [*Convention Resolutions* pp. 11-12] was discussed. Questions centered around where the funding for the District's lead gift would come from and what effect the gift would have on the financial situation of the District. The resolution was adopted [Yes: 178; No: 1].)

RESOLUTION #3-01: To Thank and Recognize the Rev. Roger Carlisle  
OVERTURE #3-06 (*Convention Overtures*, p. 23)

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
JUNE 26-29, 2022

WHEREAS, The Rev. Roger Carlisle has served faithfully and tirelessly in Iowa District West as a District Vice President, member of the Board of Directors and Synod Commission on Handbook, Circuit Visitor, District Reconciler, principal author of our current District Handbook and chiefly as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Wall Lake, Iowa for 40 years; and

WHEREAS, The Rev. Roger Carlisle has consistently reached out to the Synod and District as pastor, mentor, teacher, friend, and truly as a “Partner in the Gospel”; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Rev. Roger Carlisle be recognized for his service at this Iowa District West Convention as the assembly stands to sing the common doxology.

Respectfully submitted,  
Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances

**Action: Adopted (1)**

(Res. 3-01 [*Convention Resolutions* p. 13] was adopted unanimously, without discussion. The approval of this resolution was done through the singing of the common doxology.)

RESOLUTION #3-02: To Commend the Celebration of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in District Congregations in 2022

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
JUNE 26-28, 2022

WHEREAS, April 26, 2022, was the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, An anniversary is a celebration of God’s blessing in the past, as well as a time of joyful anticipation of what the Lord of the Church has in store for His people in the future; and

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod exists to conserve and promote the unity of the true faith; strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; to recruit and train professional church workers; to provide opportunities for showing Christian love and compassion by meeting human needs; to aid and develop processes for thorough Christian education for all age levels; and for many other benefits to congregations, professional church workers, and laypeople (Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Article III: Objectives); and

WHEREAS, The Mission Statement of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod says, “In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world;” and

WHEREAS, The congregations and schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod joyfully proclaim the Gospel message of salvation by God’s grace through faith in the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior to all the world; and

WHEREAS, Jesus invites us to “lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest” (John 4:35); and

WHEREAS, Our Lord is always able to do far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine, according to the power at work within us to His glory in the church throughout all generations (Eph. 3:20-21); therefore be it

*Resolved*, That Iowa District West office assist and aid district congregations in celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by promoting the anniversary and by sharing any special materials or projects created and developed by the Synod;

*Resolved*, That the Iowa District West in Convention commend and encourage the observance of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to all our district congregations, professional church workers, and laypeople and that we join in corporate and individual prayer asking that God would continue to bless the Gospel work of our Synod, its congregations and schools, and its people and provide us with new opportunities to share the life-saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ for the extension of His kingdom and to the glory of His holy name; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That in joyous celebration of this milestone, the assembly stands to sing the common doxology.

Respectfully submitted,  
Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances

**Action: Adopted (2)**

(Res. 3-02 [*Convention Resolutions* pp. 14-15] was adopted with no discussion [Yes: 176; No: 10]. At its adoption, the assembly stood to sing the common doxology)

RESOLUTION #3-03: To Provide an Annual Compensation and Benefit Recommendation for Professional Church Workers of Iowa District West  
OVERTURE #3-02 (*Convention Overtures, p. 18*)

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
JUNE 26-28, 2022

WHEREAS, Scripture addresses church worker compensation. Paul writes in 1 Timothy, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages” (5:18). In 1 Corinthians 9:7-12, Paul teaches that the worker is worthy of his wages; and

WHEREAS, Iowa District West has, through convention, historically adopted a three-year Compensation and Benefit Recommendation for Professional Church Workers; however due to constant fluctuation of the economy, it has become increasingly difficult to accurately estimate a three-year Compensation and Benefit Recommendation for Professional Church Workers of Iowa District West; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Iowa District West Stewardship Committee prepare an annual Compensation and Benefit Recommendation for Professional Church Workers of Iowa District West; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Iowa District West Board of Directors approve an annual Compensation and Benefit Recommendation for Professional Church Workers of Iowa District West; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That the Iowa District West annual Compensation and Benefit Recommendation for Professional Church Workers of Iowa District West be emailed to all congregations, professional church workers, and posted on the Iowa District West website by August 15.

Respectfully submitted,  
Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances

**Action: Adopted (2)**

(Res. 3-03 [*Convention Resolutions* p. 16] received some discussion. There was a question asking to clarify whether the resolution would be in effect for the term of this convention only [2022-2025], or from this time forward. The answer from the floor committee was that the intent of the resolution was to provide an annual recommendation each year from now on. The resolution was subsequently adopted [Yes: 156; No: 28].)

RESOLUTION #3-04A: To Amend Bylaw 2.2.1 to Hold the Convention of Iowa District West  
in the Second Full Week Following Memorial Day

OVERTURE #3-01 (*Convention Overtures, p. 16-17*)

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
JUNE 26-28, 2022

WHEREAS, Camp Okoboji is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

WHEREAS, Iowa District West, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is in partnership with Camp Okoboji in making and building up disciples of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Camp Okoboji staff is striving to establish an additional week of summer Youth/Household Discipleship (Cub Week #1) to be consistently scheduled; and

WHEREAS, Camp Okoboji staff is striving to establish consistent scheduling of all programs, conventions, families and groups served throughout the summer while best fulfilling their needs; and

WHEREAS, Iowa District West, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s current bylaws state the following: “The conventions of Iowa District West shall be held in the fourth week of June in the year preceding the general convention of the Synod” (2.2.1.); and “The district conventions shall be held at Camp Okoboji, Milford, Iowa, or at another site to be selected by the Board of Directors in consultation with the President and the Vice Presidents of the district” (2.2.2.); and

WHEREAS, The “fourth week of June” prevents establishing consistent scheduling of programs, conventions, families, and groups served throughout the summer while best fulfilling their needs; and

WHEREAS, The Iowa District West LWML, confirmed through previous communication, supports the desire to establish scheduling that creates consistency for all conventions, including theirs; and

WHEREAS, Iowa District West, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod desires consistency of its convention schedule (as represented in existing bylaws) and desires to support Camp Okoboji in establishing and sustaining a consistent schedule for the programs, conventions, families and groups that Camp Okoboji serves throughout the summer; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That Iowa District West, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod acknowledges the significant role Camp Okoboji serves in Youth and Household Discipleship; and be it further

*Resolved*, That Iowa District West, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod acknowledges the significance of Camp Okoboji’s consistent scheduling of all programs, conventions, families, and groups; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That Iowa District West, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention hereby amend bylaw 2.2.1.:

~~The conventions of Iowa District West shall be held in the fourth week of June in the year preceding the general convention of the Synod.~~

The conventions of Iowa District West shall be held in the second full week following Memorial Day (also described as Week 3 of Camp Okoboji's Summer Schedule) in the year preceding the general convention of the Synod.<sup>1</sup>

Respectfully submitted,  
Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances

**Action: Adopted (2)**

(Res. 3-04A [*Convention Resolutions* pp. 17-18] was discussed and a "friendly amendment" was made to insert the word "ordinarily" ahead of the words "be held" in the proposed bylaw 2.2.1. The resolution was adopted as amended [Yes: 173; No: 12].)

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission on Constitutional Matters approved this change for presentation to the convention as consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod. Approved December 3-4, 2021. With the bylaw change, June 8-10 2025 would be the 42<sup>nd</sup> Iowa District West Convention dates.

RESOLUTION #3-05A: To Transfer Property to Memorial Lutheran Church, Ames  
OVERTURE #3-03 (*Convention Overtures, p. 19*)

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
JUNE 26-29, 2022

WHEREAS, Memorial Lutheran Church and Student Center has faithfully served the Ames community and the students at Iowa State University for over 80 years; and

WHEREAS, Initial funding for this ministry came from The National Lutheran Education Association and the congregations of Iowa District West; and

WHEREAS, Memorial Lutheran Church has maintained and cared for this facility throughout the history of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, We live in an increasingly litigious society, it is important both for Memorial Lutheran in Ames and Iowa District West to have a clear division of property; therefore be it

*Resolved* that Memorial Lutheran be advised and encouraged to update Article X of their constitution to express the following conditions,

10.0 DIVISION

If at any time a division of the congregation should take place for any reason, the following principles will govern.

10.1 The property of the congregation and all benefits connected therewith shall remain with those communicant members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to the confessional standards set forth in this constitution.

10.2 In the event that the congregation dissolves, all property shall be disposed of by the final voters assembly for the payment of debts and all just claims against the congregation, and any and all surplus and all rights connected therewith shall be conveyed to and become the property of Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.”

*Resolved*, That Iowa District West, upon approval of Iowa District West Board of Directors, transfer ownership of the building and property located at 2228 West Lincoln Way in Ames, Iowa to Memorial Lutheran Church and Student Center; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That Iowa District West in Convention thank Memorial Lutheran Church of Ames for over 80 years of *Partnership in the Gospel* in service to Christ and His Church, and anticipates continued partnership for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,  
Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances

**Action: Adopted (2)**

(Res. 3-05 [*Convention Resolutions p. 19*] was discussed, with questions about the history of the congregation and the property, which were answered by the second WHEREAS. The resolution was adopted [Yes: 151; No: 28].)

RESOLUTION #3-06: To Address the Lutheran Teacher Shortage and Low Teacher Salaries by  
Initiating a Student Debt Assistance Program for LCMS Commissioned  
Ministers – Teachers

OVERTURE #3-04 (*Convention Overtures, p. 20-21*)

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
JUNE 26-28, 2022

WHEREAS, Our Lutheran schools struggle to find rostered teachers to serve in the classrooms of our high schools, elementary schools, and child development centers<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, In Spring 2022, according to the placement director of the Concordia University System, the number of teacher candidates graduating from the Concordia University System totaled 88 and the number of requests from calling entities was over 400; and

WHEREAS, Research has shown that a primary reason for this is the lower salary offered for teachers within the Lutheran school systems<sup>3 4</sup>; and

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<sup>2</sup> The number of new commissioned teachers has steadily declined since 2005 (Concordia University System [CUS] Board for University Education [BUE] statistics); and the fulfillment rate of requests for first-year Synod-trained candidates to LCMS calling entities has declined from 63 percent in 2010 to 30 percent in 2018 because of the lack of available Synod-trained candidates (CUS BUE statistics); The CUS only graduated 23 early childhood educators, 39 elementary educators, and 32 secondary educators in 2018 (CUS BUE statistics); (2019 Resolution 12:02A, p.222 of 2019 LCMS Convention Proceedings).

<sup>3</sup> Theme 8 of Office of National Mission's "LCMS Church Worker Wellness Insights," presentation by Rev. Robert Zagore, Office of National Mission to Gospel 2019

- ❖ Financial wellbeing is unique among worker needs in that the major problems are beyond the worker's ability to change – most often the problem is that the workers are in a mathematically impossible situation
- ❖ Workers are under-paid for their skill level and workload
- ❖ Costs for health care are being pushed to the workers
- ❖ Young workers are burdened with significant student debt
- ❖ Many calling bodies are unable to pay their workers what is necessary
- ❖ *"The toughest work is being done in the places that can pay the least"* (i.e. dying congregations, inner-city churches, immigrant ministries, etc.)
- ❖

<sup>4</sup> Note: Conclusion of Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on Lutheran Schools (2019 R.63) "Lutheran education is a noble calling, yet it is facing significant challenges. Data support a real need for synodical entities to bring resolution to indebtedness for church workers. With the impending retirement of many teachers and administrators coupled with the diminishing numbers of Lutheran Teacher Diploma (LTD) candidates enrolling in the Concordia University System, there is an increased sense of urgency to recruit and retain qualified young people in the Lutheran teaching ministry. The desire to enter the vocation of education is lessening due to several factors including classroom management issues, public perception of the profession and state regulations. Additionally, many students are coming out of college with significant debt and are paid salaries below recommended levels. The trendline on debt and salary must change or the teacher shortage will likely continue. Teachers and administrators are in a great position to influence current and future students about the joys and rewards of church work and need to be intentional in their efforts to help recruit new students for the Concordia University System" (2019 LCMS Convention Workbook, p.344-348.).

WHEREAS, Concordia Plans reported in 2021 that 27% of LCMS workers have student debt that averages \$46,000 per student; and

WHEREAS, The reality of student loan debt is an important part of the decision to seek employment outside the Lutheran school; and

WHEREAS, It is of value that we fill our schools with rostered workers as recognized in the 2016 Synod Convention Res. 8-01A, "To Encourage and Strengthen the Lutheran Ethos of Our LCMS Early Childhood Centers, Elementary Schools, and High Schools" which specifically identified that a characteristic of a Lutheran school with a strong Lutheran ethos has LCMS-trained Lutheran teachers who know and are committed to the truths of the Scriptures as confessed in our Lutheran Confessions (2019 LCMS Convention Proceedings, Resolution 12-02 A, p.221); therefore be it

*Resolved*, That Iowa District West memorialize the Synod in Convention in 2023 to direct our Synod Board of Directors to develop, in consultation with stakeholders including the Education Department of the Concordia University System, LCMS School Ministry, Concordia Plans, The Foundation, and the Council of Presidents, a loan forgiveness process and bring to the 2026 Synod in Convention for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances

**Action: Adopted (2)**

(Res. 3-06 [*Convention Resolutions* pp. 20-21] was discussed, with a comment that the Synod is also discussing this issue with its "Set Apart to Serve" initiative. The resolution was adopted [Yes: 122; No: 55].)

RESOLUTION #3-07: To Celebrate the Fiscal Transparency and Faithful Stewardship of Iowa  
District West

OVERTURE #3-05 (*Convention Overtures*, p. 22)

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
JUNE 26-28, 2022

WHEREAS, Scripture commands us to be good stewards of God's manifold grace (1 Peter 4:10); and

WHEREAS, Our earthly treasures are gifts from God (Small Catechism: The Creed: Article 1); and

WHEREAS, God takes the honesty and transparency of our gifts very seriously (Acts 5:1ff); and

WHEREAS, Congregations and District desire to faithfully be “Partners in the Gospel” and work together so that Word and Sacrament ministry may continue and be furthered; and

WHEREAS, Iowa District West financial summaries are available online (<http://idwlcms.org/administrative.php> “Budget Download”); and

WHEREAS, The District holds at least annually a treasurers’ workshop where questions of District budget are welcomed; and

WHEREAS, Our district business manager stands ready to answer any fiduciary questions by elected church officials or professional church workers; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors annually reviews and approves the District budget; and

WHEREAS, A required annual professional audit is conducted by an outside firm; and therefore be it:

*Resolved*, That Iowa District West continues full transparency in financial details with the Board of Directors; and be it finally

*Resolved*, That Iowa District West thanks our district treasurer and business manager for their faithful service to the congregations of Iowa District West.

Respectfully submitted,  
Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances

**Action: Adopted (2)**

(Res. 3-07 [*Convention Resolutions* p. 22] was adopted with no discussion [Yes: 167; No: 16].)

RESOLUTION #3-08A: To Permit Greater Flexibility in the Ministry for the District President  
OVERTURE #3-07 (*Convention Overtures, p. 24-25*)

TO IOWA DISTRICT WEST IN CONVENTION AT CAMP OKOBOJI, IOWA  
JUNE 26-28, 2022

WHEREAS, Ecclesiastical supervisors and bishops have historically continued to serve congregations in Word and Sacrament ministry; and

WHEREAS, District presidents have on account of their ordination (as do all ordained pastors) power of the order, that is, the ministry of the Word and Sacraments, and the power of jurisdiction (AP XXVIII:12-13); and

WHEREAS, District presidents have been ordained into the pastoral office of the holy ministry and are thus equal to every pastor in the essence of this Word and Sacrament ministry; and

WHEREAS, There are districts in the LCMS today where the district president serves a parish in addition to serving as the chief executive officer of the district; and

WHEREAS, The LCMS by-laws do not place any restrictions or prohibitions on district presidents serving congregations; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures give the charge to all pastors, including those serving as ecclesiastical supervisors by human right, to do the work of a pastor (2 Tim. 4, 1 Pet. 5); and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures charge pastors, "Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you" (1 Tim. 4:14); therefore be it

*Resolved*, That a pastor who also serves as the district president of Iowa District West not be restricted or prohibited in any way from fulfilling his ordination by serving a congregation in Word and Sacrament ministry; and be it finally

*Resolved*, that Bylaw 3.9.2 be approved provisionally, pending CCM review per the Synod Handbook 3.9.2.2.3 (b) and amended from the IDW Handbook by striking a portion as follows:

PROPOSED WORDING

3.9 Administrative Provisions for the District President  
Powers and Duties

3.9.2 The district president shall be a full-time executive, ~~He shall not be in charge of a congregation,~~ but may be called as an ~~assistant~~ pastor, provided such services do not interfere with his official duties as president.

Respectfully submitted,  
Floor Committee 3 Administration and Finances

**Action: Adopted (4)**

(Res. 3-08A [*Convention Resolutions* p. 23] was presented by the committee, changing the original wording of the final *Resolved* to reflect the need for CCM review. The resolution received some discussion. An amendment was moved and seconded to remove the second and third WHEREASes from the resolution. The amendment was approved [Yes: 139; No: 37]. During the discussion the committee noted that the proposed change in Bylaw 3.9.2 would apply only to Iowa District West. The resolution was adopted as amended [Yes: 166; No: 14].)

## OMNIBUS RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, Two overtures request actions that are the responsibility of various boards, commissions, or individuals to study and to implement; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the following overtures be placed in Resolution A and be referred to the designated board, commission, or individual:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Board, Commission, Individual</u>
Ov. #2-06	To prioritize Sundays for Local Congregational Worship	CTCR
Ov. #2-07	To Reject the Practice of Temporary Calls	Peace Lutheran Church West Bend, Iowa

(The resolution addresses the nature of the call. District conventions do not have the authority to speak on behalf of the Synod as a whole. Therefore, we encourage the congregation to study the CTCR document on the Theology and Practice of “the Divine Call,” February 2003. The congregation may wish to present a similar resolution to the 2023 Synod Convention.)

### **Action: Adopted (5)**

(The Omnibus Resolutions [*Convention Resolutions* p. 24] were adopted without discussion, by voice vote.)