

Give Jesus Glory



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
8th Convention of the
Alberta-British Columbia District
Lutheran Church-Canada
May 22-25, 2009
Vancouver, British Columbia**

**HIS CALLING:
TO FAITH... FOR LIFE**

ROMANS 1:7

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**8th Convention of the Alberta-British Columbia District
Lutheran Church-Canada
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Report of The District President - Part II

I greet you all in the name of Jesus. There is no other name given among men under heaven by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12) At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:10-11) You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Cor. 6:11)

Our convention theme proclaims "Give Jesus Glory...His Calling...to Faith...for Life." So I begin Part II of the report of the District President by giving Jesus glory and humble thanks to you for my re-election as District President. I regard this election as a privilege and an honour; but not privilege and honour as the world sees it. The position is not one of power or control; nor does it hold the promise of riches and fame. It is a position of service and of servanthood. It has been a joy and a privilege to have been entrusted with this responsibility for the last nine years and I am indeed humbled that the Convention has elected me to serve for another three years.

I well remember the day I was first elected in 2000. It was the first year of the new millennium. The events that have taken place in the last nine years on a global scale are astounding. 9/11; the war in Iraq and Afghanistan; continued terrorist attacks; SARS; the rise of Islam; climate change; global recession - and on it goes. These are events which have impacted, formed and shaped nations at a rate and in a way seldom seen in history.

As a church, in 2000 our resolutions focused on ministry to Northern communities and partnerships with LAMP; we recognized the need to do ministry with and among seniors, families and young adults. We were concerned that our Federal government was beginning to entertain the idea of allowing gay couples to be legally married.

Fast forward to 2009. I have a lot more grey hair - and so does the church, figuratively and literally speaking. Gay marriage was legalized several years ago and is no longer a newsworthy item for the media. Now the concern is that what has been accepted in society is promoted in many mainline denominations in Canada. The blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination of openly gay men and women into the office of the Holy Ministry has been given serious consideration and substantial support by many leaders in other church bodies.

While this is a matter of grave concern, I believe it to be symptomatic of an even greater issue. Far too many within Christendom are re-defining their theology based on public opinion. For decades and even centuries, the church enjoyed a significant degree of support in morals and values. In the area of public morals, society condemned common-law marriages. When Canada drafted its first Criminal Code in 1894, both abortion and homosexuality were Criminal Code offenses. In those days, if there was a serious challenge facing the church it was the temptation to legalism.

Today we live in a society where Christianity is a declining minority in the Canadian population. And within Christendom far too many have sought to re-define their theology in the hopes of gaining greater appeal and re-gaining prominence and significance. H. Richard Niebuhr, a prominent American theologian of the 20th Century, aptly describes the result of this re-defined theology. He writes, "A God without wrath brought people without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministry of a Christ without the cross."

If, indeed, the attempt to re-define the Christian faith is to make it more appealing and relevant to the general public then, judging by the diminishing numbers of adherents to such churches, the attempt has been a catastrophic failure.

I His Calling

In our Convention theme, we have emphasized Christ's calling. In the Gospel Lesson for last Sunday, these words of Jesus were read in our churches: "*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.*" Our relationship with God begins in the heart of our Saviour. We did not choose Him, but He chose us. We do not define the terms of our relationship with Him.

In the Old Testament, as the children of Israel prepare to enter the promised land after forty years of wilderness wanderings, God reminds them of the basis for their relationship: "*It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.*" (Deut. 7:7-8) God chose and rescued these people because of the promise He had made to send His Son to be their Saviour, not because they had done anything to impress Him or that, somehow, as a nation, they were so remarkably virtuous that they were able to keep His Law.

Martin Luther captured the nature of our call to faith so well in his explanation of the third article of the Apostles' Creed when he wrote, "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the one true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true."

We are poor miserable sinners who deserve nothing but God's eternal wrath and punishment. In His Son, God has taken our place under the Law and was punished on our behalf. He was declared the sinner; we are declared the saints. He was declared guilty; we are declared righteous. Our call to this faith doesn't get any simpler than the words the Apostle Paul spoke to the Philippian jailer, "*Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.*" (Acts 16:31)

II To Faith

We are called to believe; but to believe what? We can believe that monkeys fly, but that's not going to help when it comes to our eternal destiny. We are called to believe the saving faith. Theologians make a helpful distinction between the faith that believes and the faith that is believed. The faith that is believed is the clear doctrines and teachings of Scripture. This is what we believe and confess as Lutheran Christians.

Now what about the relevance issue? Do the teachings and doctrines of Scripture have anything of interest to the average unbelieving Canadian or American or Mexican or Korean or Cantonese?

It was a mere few weeks ago that the world was on the edge of its seat as it waited and watched to see the outcome of the swine flu epidemic. In retrospect, the biggest threat may not have been the pandemic so much as it was the panic that this flu strain caused. I find it somewhat fascinating to hear, on the one hand, that the general population believes that we are insignificant blips on an evolutionary journey. The rock band "Kansas" sang, "All we are is dust in the wind..." Elton John sings that we are all part of the "Circle of Life."

So many have blindly bought into this secular view of life. But did you notice how frightened people were of the swine flu? Do you notice how tenaciously people cling to life even in their last hour as if their life was really worth something? And what if your life was worth something but not enough? And what if there was an accountability before a holy and righteous God? There is nothing more relevant in all the world than the message of the Gospel because it speaks to those very questions.

If you ask me what the most important thing that our congregations can do in the next three years, I'll tell you quite simply, proclaim Law and Gospel and don't be afraid or ashamed to do so. This is where the rubber hits the road, so to speak, for the members of Synod in the ABC District. Everything we do as a church body and everything we do as congregations must be viewed in the light of how it contributes to the unabashed proclamation of the clear message of Scripture.

The former President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Dr. Al Barry, put it this way: "Get it right and get it out." In other words, we are to speak none other than the faith to which we have been called; and we are to speak it boldly.

III For Life

What does this all mean specifically for our Alberta-British Columbia District of Lutheran Church-Canada? First of all, it means that we need to have a church whose members have an intimate knowledge of the Scriptures and the Confessions. At the risk of sounding judgmental, I feel I need to say that I am saddened by the Biblical illiteracy displayed by so many of our people. The personal and private study of God's Word and the teaching of the Scriptures appear, in many cases, to have fallen by the wayside. As the Scriptures are a means of grace through which the Holy Spirit works to create, nurture and sustain faith, it is imperative that our people be in the Word. It also underscores the continued development and support of

Lutheran pre-schools, elementary schools and high schools along with the ongoing support of our post-secondary schools. These are going to be areas of strong focus for our District in the next triennium.

When we talk about the Lutheran Confessions, note that while the word “confession” is a noun, it also contains the word “confess” which is a verb. We are a confessional church and as such, we have a clear confession of faith which brooks no adjustment to suit the masses; and as a confessional church, we will not be afraid to proclaim it to the masses because, as the Evangelist St. John writes, *“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”* (1 John 2:2)

Does that mean that our church should not be concerned about presenting our confession of faith in a relevant fashion? Of course not. During my ministry, one of the dramatic changes I have seen is the development of technology. I was ordained into the holy ministry in 1976. At that time there was no such thing as personal computers. Think about that for a moment. There is a whole generation that has grown up that doesn’t know what life is like without computers.

The challenge for us as a church is how to embrace and use this continually developing technology for the proclamation of the Gospel. You saw some of this technology in use last night at the opening service. The service was put together using a computer program - The Lutheran Service Builder. It was projected via PowerPoint on a screen for all to see and follow. My own congregation - St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Stony Plain - has made its worship services available via podcast using iTunes. Dr. Fickenscher’s Convention Essay this morning was made available live to anyone in the world (literally!) via podcast on the internet.

Social networking on the internet has taken the world by storm and an ever-increasing number of people around the world are communicating and relating via facebook, MySpace and other popular sites. Then there is “flickr,” “twitter,” “blogging” and the list goes on.

The question I have is this - how are we using these technologies to serve the cause of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? It’s an important question and one which I am sure Dr. Walter A. Maier asked in the 1920's when radios were becoming commonplace in homes across North America. The result of that important question was the radio broadcast “The Lutheran Hour - Bringing Christ to The Nations.”

People have figured out how to make money using the internet; how to develop and promote internet pornography; how to buy and sell items using auction sites like e-bay; how to promote ideas and philosophies. The world has already figured out how to use this technology quite effectively. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *“All things are yours.”* So how do we use these things which have been given to us to extend Christ’s calling to those who have never heard? It is a question which we need to address.

This is only one area of opportunity we have before us. The planting of new missions in Alberta and British Columbia is a growing trend in our District as you will have read in your workbook. The Vancouver 2010 Olympics will provide us with unique opportunities to share the Gospel with people from around the world. Through the organization “More Than Gold,” individuals and congregations can share in Gospel witness to athletes and their support teams from around the world. (I encourage you to visit their table in the display area.)

I am particularly gratified by the growing number of pastors who have sought to engage local communities in their Gospel witness through chaplaincy programs. I have asked chaplains to wear their uniforms this morning so we could identify them. Could we have all those involved in **military chaplaincy** please stand and remain standing. Now **emergency services chaplains (police, fire, medical)**. Now **hospital and seniors' home chaplains**. We give thanks to God for your service and we hope to provide continued encouragement and support for the work that you do.

I have pointed out earlier in this report that, because we are a confessional Lutheran Church, we are faced with some unique challenges. We need to be bold in our public witness to the Gospel; we need to stand firm on our confession of faith; we dare not yield to pressure to abandon our public doctrine and teaching because we are swimming upstream, against the flow of popular opinion.

On the other hand, we are being presented with rather unique opportunities as individuals - both pastors and lay people - in other church bodies seek refuge and look to us because of our clear public confession of the Christian faith. I have had an increasing number of phone calls, e-mails and letters from people who are looking to LCC for help and support. I know that some of our pastors gathered here today have had these kinds of contacts as well.

They are not asking us to change our confession of faith. As a matter of fact, it is because we stand unwavering that they have been drawn to us in the first place. Instead, they are asking if they can find support from us as they strive to be faithful. This impacts us directly as a District of Lutheran Church-Canada. However, it doesn't impact just us. We have had numerous conversations at Council of Presidents meetings about how this will play out and as requests have become more specific, we make sure that our Synod President is kept "in the loop." I would also ask that as any of you is approached, that you would also keep me in the loop. We have an important and valuable ministry to provide.

IV To Life Eternal

"His Calling...to Faith...for Life." By the grace of God, we have been called to faith. Through faith, we have embraced Christ as our Saviour from sin. By the mercies of God, we offer our lives as living sacrifices to Him. However the story is not complete for we have been called to faith for *eternal* life.

St. Paul writes: "*Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*" (Col. 3:2-4) Our sinful nature was put to death with Christ at the cross. In our baptism, we were united with Him in a death like His and we shall be united with Him in a resurrection like His. Today we see through a glass darkly and we know only in part. But when Christ comes again in glory on the day of resurrection, we shall see as He is - our risen Saviour - and we will know our new life to the fullest.

V Conclusion

I have tried, in this report, to give you a picture of the opportunities and challenges which we face as a District of Lutheran Church-Canada. There are so many other areas that I could address, but time is limited. But we should not forget to thank God for His continued provision of church workers; for reconciliations in conflict situations; for a Synod that has resolved to be more intentional in the care of church workers; for congregational mission remittances which have remained strong and even increased in a time of global recession.

You have elected me to serve as District President to serve for another three years. I am thankful that I am not alone in this service. Some have called our District Office the District “headquarters.” It is, in fact, the District “servant’s quarters” and I am privileged to be able to serve with an entire staff of gifted servants. I thank God for each and every one of them.

I especially want to thank God for my family - which, by the way is growing as I am going to become a grandfather twice this year. My wife, Beth, continues to be a special blessing to me. Her love, patience and her wisdom are unique gifts for which I thank and praise God.

For Christ’s calling to faith for life I invite all of our delegates to rise and join me in singing the common doxology.

LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA, ABC DISTRICT CONVENTION 2009
(8th Convention as a District of Lutheran Church-Canada)
University of British Columbia – Vancouver, B.C.

MINUTES

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2009

7:30 p.m.

Opening Service

The Opening Service for the 48th Convention of the Alberta-British Columbia District was hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church, Richmond at the Convention Hall at the University of British Columbia. President Don Schiemann was the Convention worship liturgist and opened the Service with the Trinitarian Invocation. The preacher was President Robert Bugbee, President of Lutheran Church-Canada. His message was based on the District Convention Theme: **“His Calling: To Faith...for Life”** (Romans 1:7).

The Worship Service was followed immediately by a fellowship reception.

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2009

Session 1

8:15 a.m.

Opening Devotion

The Opening Devotion was conducted by Rev. Dr. Leonardo Neitzel. He based his devotion on Romans 1:1 ff. He began by emphasizing the servant-hood of St. Paul and of Christ who humbled Himself for our sake and became obedient unto death. Through Him we are made God's own so that we can serve Him in His kingdom. He prayed that the Lord would bless each one of us by His grace so that we can praise God with all that we are and all that we have.

Welcome

President Don Schiemann opened the day with the Trinitarian Invocation and thanked Trinity Lutheran Church, Richmond for sponsoring Holy Communion, President Bugbee for preaching and all those who assisted in the service. Special thanks to Rev. Lorne Manweiler for playing the organ, Michael Gillingham for playing the guitar and Monica Schultz for singing during the service.

Thanks were expressed by the President to Mindy Kettner for designing our Convention banner.

Kurt Robinson made announcements regarding computer access to the Internet on campus and he introduced the people from the District Office who planned and organized the Convention.

President Don Schiemann oriented the Convention especially for the sake of the new delegates.

Rev. Erik Trovall was introduced as the Convention Chaplain to whom all requests for special prayers went.

Special Guests: Representing the Synod were President Robert Bugbee; Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan, former President and Executive Assistant for Mission & Social Ministry; Ian Adnams, Director of Communications; Dwayne Cleave, Treasurer; and Inge Schroeder, Worker Benefit Plans. Other guests were Dr. Gerald Krispin, President of Concordia University College of Alberta; Dr. Manfred Zeuch, President of Concordia Lutheran Seminary; Rev. Jim Keller from Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary; Dr. Ed Lehman, Past President and Parliamentarian; Rev. James Schuelke; Rev. Joseph Alfazema, Mission speaker from Mozambique; Rev. Alexy Navrotsky, Mission speaker from Ukraine; Rev. Dr. Carl C. Fickenscher II, Convention Essayist.

Other representatives of various support agencies of Lutheran Church-Canada and Advisory Delegates were also introduced.

Orientation

President Don Schiemann led the Convention through a primer on how a convention operates and parliamentary procedure, pages 3-7 of the 2009 Convention Workbook. He encouraged delegates to come to the microphone if they do not understand the issue or the question under discussion. He emphasized that it is important for the delegates to be informed on the issues.

Registration and Credentials - Committee No. 4

Rev. Noel Smith reported on the registration of delegates. He reported that there were 76 clergy delegates; 87 lay delegates; 17 advisory clergy; 26 advisory deacons; and 72 special guests. This gave a total of 278 registered voting and advisory delegates.

President Don Schiemann declared that we have a quorum and the Convention may begin.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: That we approve the agenda for the Convention.

ACTION: M/S/C

President Don Schiemann continued with a further explanation of Parliamentary procedure.

Special Standing Rules

MOTION: That we accept the Special Standing Rules.

ACTION: M/S/C

Ratification of Appointments – Committee No. 8

Add Rev. Keith Haberstock, p 17.

MOTION: To ratify appointments to the Committees for the 2009 Convention.

ACTION: M/S/C

Ratification of New and Amended Constitutions

2009-03-07 TO RATIFY THE FOLLOWING NEW AND REVISED CONSTITUTIONS AND BYLAWS

Reference Report of the Board of Directors

WHEREAS according to Synodical Bylaw 1.15(b.) of Lutheran Church-Canada, “A member congregation which translates, revises or amends its constitution or adopts a new constitution shall submit such translation, revision, amendment, or new constitution to the district president, who shall direct it through existing channels for review. Upon favourable action by the board of directors of the district, the congregation shall be notified that the changes are valid and approved and that the congregation is empowered to function under the new or changed constitution and bylaws. Such actions shall be submitted to the next convention of the district for ratification”; and

WHEREAS the following congregations have revised and amended their constitutions and bylaws and have received favourable action by the board of directors:

Hope Lutheran Church, Port Coquitlam, BC
Concordia Lutheran Church, Edmonton, AB
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Salmon Arm, BC
Zion Lutheran Church, Golden Spike, AB
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Creston, BC
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oliver, BC
Peace Lutheran Church, Spruce Grove, AB
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Stony Plain, AB
East Kootenay Lutheran Parish, Cranbrook, BC
Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Kamloops, BC

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that the ABC District in convention ratify the revised and amended constitutions and bylaws of the above-mentioned congregations.

ACTION: M/S/C

Acceptance of New Members

All new deacons, pastors and congregations were invited to come forward to sign the Constitution of Synod. President Robert Bugbee then formally welcomed all into the Synod.

Deacons:

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Ken Albinger | Marcus Huff | Linda Mayan |
| Leah Becker | Natalie Keith | Nicole Otterman |
| Sandi Bjorgum | Rebecca Klages | Eric Puchbauer |
| Benjamin Burge | Andrea Kolson | Henrietta Schafer |
| Kathy Cornish | Andrea Kreller | Lisa Smilek |
| Michelle Galliazzo | Linnea Lyons | Lisa Wiebe |
| Don Hindle | Charlotte Mackin | |

Pastors:

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Joseph Alfazema | Vic Esperanza | Robert Marshall | Ward Steward |
| Bill Anderson | Edivar Govaski | Ralph Mayan | Jamie Waring |
| James Avery | Don Hennig | Jan Pastucha | Manfred Zeuch |
| Curtis Boehm | Mark Just | James Paulgaard | Markus Zeuch |
| Mark Chiang | Sanghun Kim | Kevin Platz | |
| Jayanta (Joe) Das | Jefrey Koenig | Jason Schultz | |

Congregations:

None

9:30 a.m.

Welcome From Special Guests

The Honorable Alice Wong, MP brought greetings to the Convention from the Government of Canada.

Elections - Committee No. 6

Rev. Mark Ruf, 1st Vice-President of the ABC District assumed the Chair.

The slate for District President was presented by Rev. Wayne Lunderby, Chairman of the Nominations Committee. No amendments.

MOTION: To present the slate as presented in the Convention Workbook.

ACTION: M/S/C

The ballots for the election of President were distributed.

Welcome from Special Guests – Continued

Words of Greeting were then brought to the Convention by:

Rev. Dr. Gerald Krispin, President of Concordia University College of Alberta

Rev. Dr. Manfred Zeuch, President of Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, Alberta

Elections – Committee No. 6

Rev. Don Schiemann was declared **elected** President of the ABC District. A round of applause indicated the approval of the entire Convention.

Rev. Wayne Lunderby then presented the slate for Vice-President.

MOTION: To accept the slate in the Workbook, p 154 for Vice-President.

ACTION: M/S/C

The ballots for Vice-President were then distributed.

Welcome from Special Guests – Continued

Patricia Bowles from the BC Securities Commission addressed the Convention regarding protection of churches from affinity fraud.

Rev. James Keller, faculty member from Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Catherines

10:15 a.m.

Convention Essay: “His Calling...to Faith for Life” Part I – Rev. Dr. Carl C. Fickenscher II

The full text of Rev. Dr. Fickenscher’s presentation is available in the Appendix to these Minutes.

10:35 a.m.

Nominations/Elections

Vice-Presidents:

First ballot:

The committee reported the following results of the voting for Vice-President:

Total votes cast: 153.

| | |
|-----|-----------------------|
| 113 | Rev. Mark Ruf |
| 78 | Rev. Harry Haberstock |
| 71 | Rev. David Dressler |
| 65 | Rev. Roland Kubke |
| 74 | Rev. Wayne Lunderby |
| 43 | Rev. Kwang Soo Kim |

Rev. Mark Ruf and Rev. Harry Haberstock were declared elected as Vice-Presidents of the ABC District. Rev. Kim was dropped from the 2nd ballot. The 2nd Ballot for Vice-President was prepared and handed out to the Convention for vote.

The committee reported the following result of the voting for Vice-President, 2nd Ballot:

Vice-Presidents:

Second ballot:

Total votes cast: 154.

| | |
|----|---------------------|
| 53 | Rev. David Dressler |
| 46 | Rev. Roland Kubke |
| 55 | Rev. Wayne Lunderby |

Rev. Kubke was dropped from the 2nd ballot.

The committee reported the following result of the voting for Vice-President, 3rd Ballot:

Vice-Presidents:

Third ballot:

Total votes cast: 154.

| | |
|----|---------------------|
| 79 | Rev. David Dressler |
| 74 | Rev. Wayne Lunderby |

Rev. David Dressler was declared elected a Vice-President of the ABC District.

A science video on DNA from Hope Lutheran School in Port Coquitlam was shown to the Convention.

11:40 a.m.

Report of the President - Rev. Don Schiemann

President Don Schiemann turned the Chair over to Rev. Mark Ruf and proceeded with his report to the Convention. He began by greeting the delegates “in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ”.

See pages 19-31 of the Convention Workbook for the full text of the President’s Report, Part 1. He then continued with the second part of the District President’s Report which is attached to these Minutes.

MOTION: To receive the President’s Report with thanks.

ACTION: M/S/C

12:20 p.m.

Closing Prayer

The closing prayer and devotion was led by Rev. Erik Trovall and the session ended at 12:20 p.m.

Session 2

1:35 p.m.

An opening devotion for the afternoon session was led by Rev. Mark Chiang

The devotion was based on the theme verse for the convention and Colossians 3:15 spoke of how we as God’s people work together as Synod and that God enables us to do more than we could as individuals.

Nominations/Elections

President Don Schiemann announced the results of the voting for vice-president as follows: Rev. Mark Ruf – First vice-president; Rev. Harry Haberstock – Second vice-president; Rev. David Dressler – Third vice-president.

The election for secretary was held with an amended slate consisting of Rev. Andrew Craig and Rev. Wayne Lunderby. (Rev. David Dressler was removed from the slate as he was elected as third vice-president.)

An information video explaining the Lutheran Hour Ministries’ Men’s Network was shown.

Written greetings were brought to the Convention by:

The Mayor of Vancouver, Greg Robertson

The Premier of BC, Gordon Campbell

Greetings were also brought to the convention by:
LCC Financial Ministries, Allen Schellenberg
Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Tom Brook

Nominations/Elections

Secretary:

First ballot:

The committee reported the following results of the voting for secretary:

Total votes cast: 141

| | |
|-----|---------------------|
| 37 | Rev. Andrew Craig |
| 102 | Rev. Wayne Lunderby |

Rev. Wayne Lunderby was declared elected Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Mission Presentation - Rev. Joseph Alfazema (Kapasseni Mission)

Joseph shared the genesis of the Kapasseni Mission with the convention and showed some pictures illustrating the work that is currently going on in this ministry in a remote area of Mozambique. For a full report, see pages 143, 144 of the Convention Workbook. He expressed his thanks to the members of LCC for their support and prayers. Carol Kerr of the Kapasseni Mission introduced herself and briefly talked about the work of this mission.

Mission Presentation - Rev. Alexy Navrotsky (Ukraine)

Alexy spoke of the importance of sharing the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ in the language that the people we work among can understand. This includes communicating in the “language” of the modern person in our wired, on-line society. Like Luther, we need to use available resources to get the Gospel message out. The convention watched a video produced by the Alpha and Omega Youth Association.

Nominations/Elections

President Don Schiemann asked if there were and further nominations for the Board of Directors slate. There was only one editorial correction with the addition of Glen Schmitke under the heading of Rostered Teacher/DCE.

Floor Committee No. 1 (Outreach & Social Ministries)

Committee Chairman Rev. Rob Mohns introduced the members of Floor Committee No. 1: Rev. Dr. Leonardo Neitzel, Nick Steinke, Don Hindle, Dr. Glenn Schaeffer.

2009-01-05 TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS AND CHURCH WORKERS TO PRAY FOR, SUPPORT, INITIATE, AND BE INVOLVED WITH THE VANCOUVER 2010 OLYMPIC GAMES MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Reference: Department of Outreach Report

WHEREAS the 2010 Winter Olympic Games (February 12-28) and the 2010 Para-Olympic Games (March 12-21) will be coming to Vancouver; and

WHEREAS more than 300,000 people from over 80 countries will be coming to Vancouver to experience these cultural sporting events; and

WHEREAS Jesus said, “Preach the good news to all creation” (Mark 16:15); and

WHEREAS the able-bodied Olympics and the Para-Olympics is more than a sporting event, but also an opportunity for Christian witness; and

WHEREAS a local Olympic task force made up of members from the Fraser Valley Circuit and Vancouver Circuit is helping to coordinate outreach activities at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vancouver and Trinity Lutheran Church in Richmond and other circuit congregations; therefore be it

RESOLVED that all members be encouraged to pray for peace in our cities and for all Christians involved in sharing the Gospel at the games and in particular the Christian witness of our own members and congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED that members be encouraged to volunteer for Christian witness activities at the Olympic Games in consultation with the local circuit task force and the Department of Outreach; and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations throughout the Alberta –British Columbia District and across Lutheran Church – Canada be encouraged to organize and host local outreach Olympic events (e.g. Olympic Vacation Bible School events; Opening Ceremony evening gatherings); and be it finally,

RESOLVED that pastors be encouraged to develop sermons and prayers with a “Lenten athletic theme” and share them with other Christian congregations.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-01-08 TO REQUEST THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ONLINE VENUE TO SHARE OUTREACH RESOURCES AND IDEAS AND ENCOURAGE CONGREGATION SHARING OF RESOURCES

Reference: Department of Outreach Report

WHEREAS many congregations and church workers develop outreach ideas, materials, and plans for their local context; and

WHEREAS other congregations and church workers can benefit by sharing these ideas, materials and plans; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Department of Outreach develop an online venue so that these ideas, materials, and plans can be shared.

ACTION: M/S/C

FLOOR COMMITTEE NUMBER 1

OUTREACH SERVICES

2009-01-01 TO DEVELOP A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE NEW SOUTH WALES DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA WITH THE ALBERTA-BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT

References: District President Report; Department of Outreach Report

WHEREAS there has been a special relationship developed between the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) and Lutheran Church – Canada (LCC) which is based on confessional agreement between the two church bodies; and

WHEREAS the two churches have engaged in church worker exchanges in the past and present; and

WHEREAS there has been a desire for meaningful partnership between the New South Wales District and the Alberta-British Columbia District by the District President of the New South Wales District; and

WHEREAS a partnership would,

1. Strengthen the bonds of Christian fellowship between our respective churches;
2. Enhance our Christian outreach in our Districts by praying for one another, by sharing ideas and resources (including workshops/conferences), and by sending short-term mission teams to participate in outreach efforts in one another's Districts;
3. Inspire our people to get a broader mission perspective;
4. Support one another in ministry as pastors/lay leaders and engage one another in "partnerships" for the purpose of praying for one another, sharing ideas, and even filling pastoral supply needs; and

WHEREAS the Council of President's of Lutheran Church – Canada have approved of developing closer ties with the Lutheran Church in Australia, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Alberta – British Columbia District President, in discussion with the New South Wales District President, work to formalize this partnership between the two Districts; and be it further

RESOLVED that once a partnership has been established that District staff develop the particulars of the plan and publicize the opportunities that exist for congregations and church workers; and be it finally

RESOLVED that congregations and pastors be encouraged to joyfully enter into prayer, dialogue, and resource sharing with congregations and pastors in the New South Wales District, and that members be encouraged to participate in short-term mission events in the Lutheran Church of Australia, and that pastors consider filling pastoral supply needs.

ACTION: M/S/C

Nominations/Elections

Ballots for the positions of Board of Directors - Clergy, Deacon and Lay were distributed and collected. As Rev. Todd Hoeffs and Glen Schmitke are on the ballots and also members of the Elections Committee, they have excused themselves from the tallying of the ballots.

Closing Prayer by Rev. Erik Trovall

Workshops Followed.

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2009

Session 3

Nominations/Elections

SLATE OF CIRCUIT COUNSELORS FOR RATIFICATION BY THE CONVENTION

Lethbridge Circuit

Rev. Fred Rink

Calgary Circuit

Rev. Laverne Hautz

Wetaskiwin Circuit

Rev. Allen Lewis

Stony Plain Circuit

Rev. Darren Siegle

Edmonton Circuit

Rev. Forrest Stroup

Peace River Circuit

Rev. Noel Smith

Okanagan Circuit

Rev. Michael Colbeck

Kootenay Circuit

Rev. Fraser Coltman

Vancouver Circuit

Rev. Leonardo Neitzel

Vancouver Island Circuit

Rev. Phillip Washeim



Fraser Valley Circuit
Elk Island Circuit
Cariboo Circuit

Rev. James Paulgaard
Rev. Richard Williams
Rev. Alan Visser

MOTION: To ratify the slate of Circuit Counselors for election

ACTION: M/S/C

Nomination/Elections

Board of Directors:

First ballot:

Clergy:

| | |
|-----|-----------------------|
| 120 | Rev. Keith Haberstock |
| 61 | Rev. Todd Hoeffs |
| 58 | Rev. Kwang Soo Kim |
| 64 | Rev. Phillip Washeim |

Deacon:

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 71 | Michael Gillingham |
| 33 | Don Hindle |
| 48 | Glen Schmitke |

Lay Persons:

| | |
|-----|------------------|
| 113 | Judith Burns |
| 100 | Greg Giese |
| 116 | Jim Kentel |
| 118 | Melanie Kuhn |
| 106 | Harold Schmidt |
| 77 | Charles Von Hahn |
| 86 | Reg Zotzman |

Rev. Keith Haberstock, Judith Burns, Greg Giese, Jim Kentel, Melanie Kuhn, Harold Schmidt were declared elected. However, there was some question as to whether the Convention needed to elect 2 or 3 clergy members to the Board of Directors. The President directed the committee to check in the District Handbook in order to clear up this confusion.

Synodical Report President Robert Bugbee, President, LCC

President Robert Bugbee spoke first and then introduced members of his staff from the Synodical Office in Winnipeg. These included: Dwayne Cleave, the Treasurer of Synod; Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan, Executive Assistant for Missions and Social Ministry; Inge Schroeder, LCC Worker Benefits Plans; Ian Adnams, Director of Communications. The Synodical Report can be found in the Convention Workbook, pp. 59-75.

MOTION: To accept the Report of the Synod

ACTION: M/S/C

Nomination/Elections Committee

The committee returned and reported that the Handbook of the District mandated that two (2) clergy need to be elected to the Board of the Directors. Therefore a new ballot with Rev. Todd Hoeffs and Rev. Phillip Washeim’s names for clergy and Michael Gillingham and Glen Schmitke’s names for Deacons was distributed.

A DVD of Lutheran Bible Translator work in Africa was shown to the Convention.

12:00 p.m.

The closing prayer was given by the Convention Chaplain, Rev. Erik Trovall.

Session 4

1:30 p.m.

An opening hymn and prayer was led by Rev. Sandy Schelp

Report by the Registration Committee

Voting Delegates (Clergy) – 76; Voting Delegates (Lay) – 87; Advisory Delegates (Clergy) – 17; Advisory Delegates (Lay) – 26; Special Guests – 74; Total attendance - 280

Nomination/Elections Committee

Board of Directors:

Second ballot:

- 67 Rev. Todd Hoeffs
- 80 Rev. Phillip Washeim
- 92 Michael Gillingham
- 56 Glen Schmitke

President Don Schiemann declared Rev. Phillip Washeim and Michael Gillingham elected to Board of Directors. At this point Rev. Phillip Washeim removed his name from Circuit Counselor for the Vancouver Island Circuit so that he might remain on the Board of Directors of the ABC District.

FLOOR COMMITTEE NUMBER 2

PARISH AND SCHOOL SERVICES

2009-02-02 TO DEVELOP MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO CARE FOR CHURCH WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Reference: Convention Overture 2009–02-02

WHEREAS the ABC District has undertaken leadership in developing more effective care for church workers and their families; and

WHEREAS church workers spouses face unique and sometimes challenging stresses and strains; and

WHEREAS other districts of LCC have, in the past, had spouses gather in retreat to discuss items of mutual concern, to support one another and to spend time in the Word together; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the ABC District, through its staff and departments, consult with church workers, spouses and congregations on developing opportunities which will be appropriately beneficial to spouses of church workers; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the District and congregations be encouraged to develop the necessary financial resources to make it possible for all church worker spouses to attend.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-02-03 TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO REQUIRE CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

Reference: Convention Overture 2009-03-02

WHEREAS it is mandatory for insurance purposes that educational institutions carry out criminal record checks as part of their screening process; therefore be it

RESOLVED that all congregations in the ABC District be encouraged to establish and implement a screening process including a criminal record check, and where appropriate a vulnerable sector check, for all staff, congregational leaders, directors, and volunteers.

MOTION: That the following be inserted in the final resolved: “and where appropriate a vulnerable sector check.”

AMENDMENT: M/S/C

ACTION: AMENDED **MOTION:** M/S/C

2009-02-01 TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT MULTIPLE STAFF MINISTRIES IN THE ABC DISTRICT

Reference: Convention Overture 2009-02-01

WHEREAS we recognize there are an increasing number of congregations with multiple staff ministries, in partnership in the Gospel for growth of the Kingdom of God (Phil 1:3-6; 1 Peter 2:9-10); and

WHEREAS we recognize these multiple staff ministries are unique and varied; and

WHEREAS attention has been drawn to the needs of multiple staff ministries through the pre-convention seminar just recently experienced; and

WHEREAS additional training, resources, and collaboration in the area of multiple staff ministries would be beneficial to the church in the growth of the Kingdom of God; therefore be it

RESOLVED that we thank God for the blessings and challenges of congregations with multiple staff ministries (Acts 2:47); and be it further

RESOLVED that the ABC District Board of Directors ensure the development of resources, ongoing training, and responsibility for congregations with multiple staff ministries; and be it finally

RESOLVED that we encourage and request the Board of Directors of Lutheran Church – Canada to direct Concordia University College of Alberta, Concordia Lutheran Seminary and Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary to review and address the training needs of future pastors and deacons for multiple staff ministries.

ACTION: M/S/C

MOTION: To dismiss floor committee #2 with thanks.

ACTION: M/S/C

Elections Committee:

Board of Regents Concordia University College of Alberta:

First Ballot:

Deacon/Lay:

| | |
|----|--------------|
| 57 | Ken Albinger |
| 89 | Don Hindle |

Lay:

| | |
|-----|-----------------|
| 87 | Al Gerdung |
| 112 | Joel Haberstock |
| 71 | James Schutz |

President Don Schiemann declared Don Hindle, Al Gerdung and Joel Haberstock elected to the Board of Regents – Concordia University College of Alberta.

2009-03-01 TO AMEND THE BYLAWS OF THE ABC DISTRICT TO REFLECT THE TRANSFER OF ABC DISTRICT FOUNDATION TO LCCFM

Reference: Overture 2009-03-01

WHEREAS the ABC District and the Central District of LCC had established and operated their own independent foundations for the benefit of the church; and

WHEREAS it was apparent that economies of scale for investment returns and reduction of management expense costs could be achieved through amalgamation of these foundations; and

WHEREAS a national Foundation would better reflect our walking together as Synod; and

WHEREAS LCC in convention had recommended the establishment of a national foundation; and

WHEREAS this foundation, the LCCFM, has been established; and

WHEREAS the BOD of the ABC District has considered and approved the merger of the ABC District Foundation with the LCCFM; and

WHEREAS this merger has been completed; and

WHEREAS this action requires a change in the bylaws of the ABC District; therefore be it

RESOLVED that section 4.5.h (Foundation Manager – full time) of the ABC District bylaws be deleted from the list of Appointive Offices, and the phrase “Foundation Services” be removed from section 5.3.h.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-03-02 TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF AN UMBRELLA INSURANCE LIABILITY COVERAGE FOR CONGREGATIONAL STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Reference: Overture 2009-03-02

WHEREAS congregations must address the growing risks of being without sufficient liability insurance for congregational leaders, directors, volunteers and staff, in regards to all liabilities, including allegations of abuse; and

WHEREAS recent liability claims and awards by the courts have substantially increased; and

WHEREAS providing assurance of protection for congregational leaders, directors, volunteers and staff as well as program participants is vital for all concerned; and

WHEREAS it may be expedient and/or advantageous to use the combined purchasing power of the member congregations of the ABC District of Lutheran Church – Canada; therefore be it

RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to establish the required policies necessary for screening congregational leaders, directors, volunteers and staff; and be it further

RESOLVED that ABC District staff investigate the establishment of a Group Liability Insurance Policy to protect congregational leaders, directors, volunteers and staff; and be it further

RESOLVED that, if the ABC District is successful in obtaining such coverage, it be offered to member congregations; therefore be it finally

RESOLVED that participating congregations would be responsible for their own individual costs.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-03-05 TO THANK GOD FOR AND TO SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN OUR SHARED MISSION

Reference: Department of Outreach Report

WHEREAS God has blessed the ABC District with many opportunities to share the Gospel (ref. Outreach Department Report) and with varied resources with which to address those opportunities; and

WHEREAS we thank God for the faithful mission remittances from District congregations, through which the work of the Gospel is carried out within our District; therefore be it

RESOLVED that we encourage congregations to continue to prayerfully consider and support the existing and expanding mission opportunities that exist within our District.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-03-04 TO SUPPORT CONGREGATIONS AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Reference: District President's Report

WHEREAS the world economy has undergone significant turmoil, and

WHEREAS this has resulted, or may result in, challenges to various District congregations and entities, and

WHEREAS Scripture calls upon those within the church to encourage one another and bear one another's burdens (Hebrews 10:25, Acts 4:32, Galatians 6:2), and

WHEREAS we acknowledge gratitude to God for his continued blessing, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the congregations of the ABC District be encouraged to remember in prayer their sister congregations, especially those affected by economic struggle, and be it finally

RESOLVED that CEF be encouraged to continue to serve the congregations of the ABC District with understanding regarding individual circumstances.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-03-08 TO MODIFY THE BASIS OF ASSESSMENT ON CONGREGATIONS FOR CONVENTIONS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALBERTA—BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Reference: Unpublished Overture, 2009-03-03

WHEREAS presently the assessment for Conventions of the Alberta—British Columbia District is based upon a formula of ½ from a per parish assessment and ½ from a per communicant assessment,

WHEREAS many congregations have a much larger proportion of seniors, retired, and shut-in communicants on their roster than other congregations, and

WHEREAS many of these people are not able to regularly attend Divine Service, and

WHEREAS many congregations have regular attendees who are not communicant members and who have no inclination to become communicant members, and

WHEREAS this places a great burden on smaller and older congregations, who may struggle financially, and

WHEREAS we, as synod, should bear concern for our sister congregations' burdens, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the ABC District Board of Directors study the assessment process for District Conventions and Recommend appropriate changes, if applicable, for the next District Convention, and be it finally

RESOLVED that the ABC District Convention request Lutheran Church—Canada to similarly study the assessment formula for national Conventions.

ACTION: M/S/C

Nominations/Elections

District Nominations Committee:

First Ballot:

Clergy:

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 68 | Rev. Andy Kahle |
| 98 | Rev. Roland Kubke |
| 78 | Rev. Neil Stern |
| 69 | Rev. Ron Towriss |
| 60 | Rev. Erik Trovall |
| 54 | Rev. Robert Willie |

1st Vice-President Mark Ruf declared Rev. Roland Kubke and Rev. Neil Stern elected.

Deacon:

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 87 | Tara Barnes |
| 57 | Michael Gillingham |

Rev. Mark Ruf declared Tara Barnes elected.

Lay:

| | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 68 | Shirley Bessler |
| 98 | Lynn Gergens |
| 105 | Sylvia Klarenbach |
| 75 | David Schick |
| 78 | Dale Schoepp |

Rev. Mark Ruf declared Lynn Gergens, Sylvia Klarenbach, and Dale Schoepp elected.

Pastors With Alternate Training

Dr. Glenn Schaeffer reported on the Pastors with Alternate Training Program.

Glenn shared that there were 7 candidates currently in the program from various cultural backgrounds. The program is designed to train men to minister in culturally and geographically diverse locations. He then explained how the PAT program is structured and functions.

Nominations/Elections

District Nominations Committee:

Second Ballot:

The committee reported the following results:

| | |
|----|-------------------|
| 65 | Rev. Andy Kahle |
| 49 | Rev. Ron Towriss |
| 37 | Rev. Erik Trovall |

The closing devotion was led by Convention Chaplain, Rev. Erik Trovall.

The Convention workshops followed.

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2009

Session 5

The Convention re-convened at 8:30 a.m. with a Service of Remembrance.

A worship service of remembrance for those church workers who were received by Christ into the eternal mansions of heaven was led by Rev. James Schuelke. His theme was “**At Least Three Calls for All of God’s Servants**” based on 2 Timothy 1:8 & 9-10. His service emphasized that we are all called to be a child of God through Baptism, a servant of God via our Call into ministry and to life eternal through Christ Jesus.

Nominations/Elections

The Committee reported that there were a total of 151 votes cast.

The results were as follows:

| | |
|----|-------------------|
| 65 | Rev. Andy Kahle |
| 49 | Rev. Ron Towriss |
| 37 | Rev. Erik Trovall |

Rev. Erik Trovall’s name was dropped and a new ballot distributed.

Convention Essay: “His Calling...to Faith for Life” Part II - Dr. Carl Fickenscher II

President Don Schiemann turned the Chair over to Rev. Harry Haberstock who then invited Rev. Dr. Carl C. Fickenscher II to continue with part two of his essay. Following the essay President Don Schiemann resumed chairing the convention.

Nominations/Elections

District Nominations Committee:

Third Ballot:

The committee reported that there were a total of 136 votes cast.

The results were:

| | |
|----|------------------|
| 65 | Rev. Andy Kahle |
| 71 | Rev. Ron Towriss |

The Chair declared Rev. Ron Towriss elected.

The Committee put forth the slate for the Committee on Convention Nomination – Lutheran Church – Canada (LCC).

The election results were as follows:

Total number of ballots cast: 134

Clergy/Deacon:

| | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 75 | Rev. Clifford Haberstock |
| 58 | Rev. Todd Hennig |

Lay:

| | |
|----|---------------|
| 46 | Bryan Adam |
| 85 | Karen Nerbas. |

The Chair declared Rev. Clifford Haberstock and Karen Nerbas elected to the Committee on Nominations – LCC.

President Don Schiemann then announced that Rev. Robert Willie was elected as Circuit Counselor for the Vancouver Island Circuit.

MOTION: To ratify the election of Rev. Robert Willie as Circuit Counselor.

ACTION: M/S/C

FLOOR COMMITTEE NUMBER 1

OUTREACH SERVICES

2009-01-04 TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH IMMIGRANTS AND, WHEREVER POSSIBLE TO BECOME INTERCULTURAL CONGREGATIONS

Reference: Department of Outreach Report

WHEREAS the Lord tells us to go and make disciples of all nations; and

WHEREAS the nations of the world continue to come to Canada; and

WHEREAS many immigrants are seeking community within the Canadian English-speaking world; and

WHEREAS St. Paul exhorts God’s people to practice hospitality (Romans 12:13) and to “love our neighbor” (Romans 13:8-10); and

WHEREAS the Scriptures speak of the oneness of faith in the midst of cultural and linguistic diversity (Ephesians 2:11-22; 4:1-6; Galatians 3:26-29); and

WHEREAS the Church Militant is made up of believers from many nations of the world (Acts

2) and the Church Triumphant is pictured as a myriad of nations, tribes, people groups and languages surrounding the throne of the Lamb (Revelation 7:9); therefore be it

RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to identify the immigrant populations within their own communities; and be it further resolved

RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to investigate ways of making personal contact with the population for the purpose of developing relationships and sharing Christ's love; and be it further resolved

RESOLVED that congregations seek guidance, resources, and training in the implementation of cross-cultural outreach; and be it finally

RESOLVED that as immigrants become members of our congregations that the pastoral and lay leadership be committed to developing an intercultural congregation in which the diversity of culture/language is celebrated as a gift of God within the context of the oneness of the Christian faith.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-01-03 TO REQUEST THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DISTRICT CALL A DISTRICT MISSIONARY TO SERVE AS MISSIONARY TO THE METROPOLITAN VANCOUVER AREA

Reference: Department of Outreach Report

WHEREAS the Biblical-confessional statement and focus of Lutheran Church – Canada is to reach out to all people in Canada and around the world (cf. Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 2:9; Rev 7:9; Constitution of Lutheran Church – Canada, Preamble, No. 3; Article III Objectives, 2; Synodical Bylaws C. Principles of Organization, 1.31.); and

WHEREAS the major urban Canadian centers receive the most influx of new immigrants with the Metropolitan Vancouver Area not being an exception; and

WHEREAS there are complex challenges facing congregations in a major metropolitan centre such as, the Metropolitan Vancouver Area, that hinder missionary focus, zeal, and effort; and

WHEREAS congregations in the Metropolitan Vancouver Area are engaged in sharing the Gospel with immigrants and developing intercultural congregations and schools, yet much more evangelistic outreach work needs to be initiated so that God's gospel might be made known to many more immigrants; and

WHEREAS there are opportunities for joint efforts between congregations of the Vancouver Circuit and the Fraser Valley Circuit working in partnership with the Department of Outreach to enhance missionary outreach efforts in the Metropolitan Vancouver Area; and

WHEREAS the Department of Outreach has included the salary of a District Evangelist in its 2009-2010 budget; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the congregations of the Alberta – British Columbia District be encouraged to pray for the Lord to provide a District Evangelist to serve as a missionary to the Metropolitan Vancouver Area; and be it finally

RESOLVED that, by God's will, a District Evangelist for Metropolitan Vancouver Area be called by the Alberta – British Columbia District Board of Directors by the beginning of 2010.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-01-09 TO ENCOURAGE PASTORS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN LOCAL CHAPLAINCY OPPORTUNITIES AND TO SUPPORT THEM IN THAT WORK

Reference: District President's Report

WHEREAS the Lord has given his Church the ministry of Word and Sacrament for the comfort of all people (James 5:13-19; Lutheran Church – Canada Constitution Art. III, 4); and

WHEREAS all people live with the effects of life in a sinful world and therefore need God's comfort and hope; and

WHEREAS the Lutheran Church has a long history of providing spiritual care to people which has also created opportunities for sharing the Gospel with the lost; and

WHEREAS there are a number of pastors who serve as chaplains for the military, the legion, police, fire, and emergency medical services, and in correctional institutions, local medical facilities, and residential care homes; therefore be it

RESOLVED that we give thanks to God for the ministry of Word and Sacrament for the comfort of all people; and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to permit their pastor(s) and support him where he has an opportunity to serve the community as chaplain; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Department of Outreach develop a means through which resources (e.g. papers, books, conferences, seminars) applicable to chaplains can be shared for their mutual benefit; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Department of Outreach organize an annual chaplain's conference for the purpose of providing mutual support, encouragement, and skill development.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-01-06 TO ENCOURAGE LUTHERAN SCHOOLS TO ENHANCE THEIR OUTREACH EFFORTS TO THE UNCHURCHED

Reference: District President's Report; Report of the Department of Parish and School Services

WHEREAS Lutheran schools have been described as "mission driven schools" (cf. Alberta – British Columbia District Lutheran School Guidelines, September 1996, p. 4); and

WHEREAS Lutheran schools have an important and cherished role in providing a godly atmosphere for learning and for teaching children the basic truths of Scripture that God the Father is Creator of the universe; that God's Son is the Saviour of the world and that the Holy Spirit brings people to faith and sustains them in the faith through Word and Sacrament; and

WHEREAS Lutheran schools are recognized as having a special opportunity to share the Gospel with students and their families who do not know Jesus as their Saviour; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Lutheran schools in the Alberta – British Columbia District be commended in their missional purpose and focus and be encouraged to intensify their focus on intentional outreach to the spiritually-lost people in their communities; and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations with Lutheran schools be encouraged to be more intentional in connecting the mission and ministry of the church to their school and vice versa; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Alberta – British Columbia District Executive Assistants of Outreach and Parish and School Services be invited to assist schools in evaluating and developing their outreach plans and strategies; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Lutheran Teacher’s Association make missional training and planning workshops available for their administrators and teachers.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-01-07 TO ENCOURAGE PASTORS, DEACONS AND CONGREGATIONS TO NURTURE A MISSIONAL MIND SET AND DEVELOP A MISSIONAL PLAN FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO THE LOST

Reference: Department of Outreach Report; District President’s Report

WHEREAS God has given to His Church His gifts of Word and Sacrament to “declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples” (Psalm 96:3; cf. Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Peter 2:9-10); and

WHEREAS Lutheran Church – Canada has always understood the need to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people, but especially with those who are spiritually-lost (Constitution Preamble, No. 3; Article III, 2, 3); and

WHEREAS the Department of Outreach continues to develop resources for enhancing congregational outreach to the lost, including missional leadership training opportunities, such as the Rural/Small Town conference, Pastoral Leadership Training (PLI); Equipping to Share workshops (EtS), Church Planting Schools;

and the training of four individuals to consult and coach congregations in identifying goals and strategies which bring new people into the kingdom of God; and

WHEREAS Lutheran Church–Canada has also developed outreach resources for the Synod-wide Lutheran Open House and for the project One 2 One Connect; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that we give thanks to God for the outreach resources provided through the Department of Outreach; and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations and pastors be encouraged to nurture missional-minded leaders – pastors, deacons and lay leaders; and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to make use of the resources developed within the Synod and District to assist them in identifying mission opportunities, strategies, provide training and coaching; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Department of Outreach set as a priority the nurturing of a missional attitude among all God’s people by continuing to provide skill development and coaching and to promote the use of evangelistic outreach resources.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-01-02 TO REQUEST THAT THE ALBERTA – BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMUNICATION STAFF PERSON EVALUATE AND IDENTIFY TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND TO COACH/TRAIN CONGREGATIONS IN THE USE OF TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY AND OUTREACH PURPOSES

Reference: District President’s Report

WHEREAS a significant portion of the population (i.e. both churched and seeker) use the internet and associated technologies as their primary means to find, contact, and learn about a local congregation; and

WHEREAS many congregations are not currently using, or able to use, communication technologies to the extent possible and/or desired; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Alberta – British Columbia District communication staff person be made available to provide assistance to congregations who desire to evaluate and prioritize technological improvements with regard to outreach, including but not limited to the consideration of the impact and cost effectiveness of the various technologies; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Alberta – British Columbia District communication staff person recommend advanced technologies and instruct in the use of these technologies through seminars, workshops, and articles that enhance a congregation's community outreach to the lost.

ACTION: M/S/C

Floor Committee 1 was dismissed with thanks.

FLOOR COMMITTEE NUMBER 3

DISTRICT AND ADMINISTRATION

2009-03-03 TO DEVELOP A SABBATICAL POLICY FOR ROSTERED CLERGY OF THE ABC DISTRICT

Reference: Report of Salary Review Committee

WHEREAS recognizing the significant pressures placed upon the rostered church workers, their need for continuing education and the benefit of renewal that sabbaticals provide; and

WHEREAS church workers are subject to many pressures and stresses which are unique to the ministry; and

WHEREAS the Task Force on Church Worker Wellness has indicated, the concept of wholeness and wellness in ministry is an important principle in the life of the church; and

WHEREAS a healthy and effective congregation requires healthy church workers; and

WHEREAS this would help promote health and wholeness in our District and Synod; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the principle of the rostered church workers sabbatical be commended to the ABC District and its congregations, and be it further

RESOLVED that the District be requested to appoint to a committee, the responsibility to investigate policies and resources necessary to assist those congregations and

rostered church workers who mutually agree to provide a sabbatical to their rostered church workers, and be it finally

RESOLVED that the congregations of the ABC District, as well as the District, be urged to support such a program should it be established.

ACTION: M/S/C
(Amendment: every occurrence of the word “Clergy” in the original motion be replaced with the term “Rostered Church Workers” – this change was made by consensus.)

2009-03-06 TO THANK THE HOST CONGREGATION AND CIRCUITS

Reference: None

WHEREAS Trinity Lutheran Church, Richmond, has graciously served as the host congregation for the 8th convention of the ABC District; and

WHEREAS the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Circuits have graciously served as the host circuits for the 8th convention of the ABC District; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the ABC District acknowledge and thank Trinity Lutheran Church and the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Circuits by rising and applauding them for their work.

ACTION: M/S/C

Unfinished Resolutions

There were no unfinished resolutions.

Conventions Minutes

The Committee on Review of Convention Minutes reported that the Minutes up to the end of the third day of the Convention were reviewed and found in order.

MOTION: To accept these Minutes

ACTION: M/S/C

Conference Minutes

The Committee on Conference Minutes reported that they had reviewed such Minutes of the District Church Workers’ Conferences of Alberta and British Columbia and found that all Minutes were in order.

MOTION: To accept the Minutes.

ACTION: M/S/C

Registration and Credentials

The Committee reported 58 Voting clergy, 67 Voting Lay, 15 Advisory Clergy, 24 Advisory Deacon. Guests: 61, including 10 Staff. Grand Total: 225

MOTION: To destroy all ballots

ACTION: M/S/C

Unfinished Business

Thanks to our Convention Manager, Kurt Robinson and the District Staff.

Closing Worship & Installation of Officers

Rev. Erik Trovall led the Convention in a closing prayer.

Adjournment

The Convention adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Installation of Vice-Presidents, Circuit Counselors and new members of the Board of Directors was led by President Don Schiemann.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by:

Rev. William R.A. Ney, Convention Secretary
and,
Rev. Tom Kruesel, Assistant Secretary

ELECTION RESULTS

DISTRICT PRESIDENT Rev. Donald Schiemann, Stony Plain, AB

VICE PRESIDENTS Rev. Mark Ruf, Calgary, AB
Rev. Harry Haberstock, Creston, BC
Rev. David Dressler, Calgary, AB

SECRETARY Rev. Wayne Lunderby, Chilliwack, BC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Clergy Rev. Keith Haberstock, Calgary, AB
Rev. Phillip Washeim, Victoria, BC

Deacon Michael Gillingham, Sherwood Park, AB

Lay Judith Burns, Onoway, AB
Greg Giese, Edmonton, AB
Jim Kentel, Kelowna, BC
Melanie Kuhn, Red Deer, AB
Harold Schmidt, St. Albert, AB

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – District

Clergy Rev. Roland Kubke, Beachcorner, AB
Rev. Neil Stern, Leduc, AB

Deacon Tara Barnes, Edmonton, AB

Lay Lynn Gergens, Langley, BC
Sylvia Klarenbach, Edmonton, AB
Dale Schoepp, Stony Plain, BC

COMMITTEE FOR NOMINATIONS – Synod

Clergy/Deacon Rev. Clifford Haberstock, Edmonton, AB

Lay Karen Nerbas, Osoyoos, BC

BOARD OF REGENTS, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ALBERTA

Deacon Don Hindle, Richmond, BC

Lay Al Gerdung, Drumheller, AB
Joel Haberstock, Vernon, BC

CIRCUIT COUNSELORS

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Calgary Circuit | Rev. Laverne Hautz |
| Cariboo Circuit | Rev. Alan Visser |
| Edmonton Circuit | Rev. Forrest Stroup |
| Elk Island Circuit | Rev. Richard Williams |
| Fraser Valley Circuit | Rev. James Paulgaard |
| Kootenay Circuit | Rev. Fraser Coltman |
| Lethbridge Circuit | Rev. Fred Rink |
| Okanagan Circuit | Rev. Michael Colbeck |
| Peace River Circuit | Rev. Noel Smith |
| Stony Plain Circuit | Rev. Darren Siegle |
| Vancouver Circuit | Rev. Leonardo Neitzel |
| Vancouver Island Circuit | Rev. Robert Willie * |
| Wetaskiwin Circuit | Rev. Al Lewis |

*Rev. Robert Willie was elected as Circuit Counselor for the Vancouver Island Circuit after Rev. Phillip Washeim was elected to this position and stepped down to serve on the Board of Directors.

ELECTION RESULTS ACCORDING TO BALLOTS

DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Rev. Donald Schiemann (Elected)

VICE PRESIDENTS

Ballot No. 1

Total Ballots: 153

Needed to Elect: 78

| | | |
|-----|------------------------|--|
| 71 | Rev. David Dressler | |
| 78 | Rev. Harry Habershtock | (Elected 2 nd Vice-President) |
| 65 | Rev. Roland Kubke | |
| 43 | Rev. Kwang Soo Kim | |
| 74 | Rev. Wayne Lunderby | |
| 113 | Rev. Mark Ruf | (Elected 1 st Vice-President) |

Ballot No. 2

(Rev. Kwang Soo Kim dropped from 2nd ballot.)

Total Ballots: 154

Needed to Elect: 78

| | | |
|----|---------------------|--|
| 53 | Rev. David Dressler | |
| 46 | Rev. Roland Kubke | |
| 55 | Rev. Wayne Lunderby | |

Ballot No. 3

(Rev. Roland Kubke was dropped from the 3rd ballot.)

Total Ballots: 154

Needed to Elect: 78

| | | |
|----|---------------------|--|
| 79 | Rev. David Dressler | (Elected 3 rd Vice-President) |
| 74 | Rev. Wayne Lunderby | |

SECRETARY

Ballot No. 1

Total Ballots: 141

Needed to Elect: 71

| | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----------|
| 37 | Rev. Andrew Craig | |
| 102 | Rev. Wayne Lunderby | (Elected) |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ballot No. 1

Total Ballots: 163

Clergy

120 Rev. Keith Haberstock
61 Rev. Todd Hoeffs
58 Rev. Kwang Soo Kim
64 Rev. Phillip Washeim

Needed to Elect: 76
(Elected)

Deacon

33 Don Hindle
71 Michael Gillingham
48 Glen Schmitke

Needed to Elect: 77

Lay

113 Judith Burns
100 Greg Giese
116 Jim Kentel
118 Melanie Kuhn
106 Harold Schmidt
77 Charles Von Hahn
86 Reg Zotzman

Needed to Elect: 95
(Elected)
(Elected)
(Elected)
(Elected)
(Elected)

Ballot No. 2

Total Ballots: 163

Clergy

67 Rev. Todd Hoeffs
80 Rev. Phillip Washeim

Needed to Elect: 74
(Elected)

Deacon

92 Michael Gillingham
56 Glen Schmitke

Needed to Elect: 75
(Elected)

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS – District

Ballot No. 1

Total Ballots: 163

Clergy

68 Rev. Andy Kahle
98 Rev. Roland Kubke
78 Rev. Neil Stern
69 Rev. Ron Towriss
60 Rev. Erik Trovall
54 Rev. Robert Willie

Needed to Elect: 74
(Elected)
(Elected)

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

FLOOR COMMITTEE NUMBER 1

OUTREACH SERVICES

2009-01-01 TO DEVELOP A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE NEW SOUTH WALES DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA WITH THE ALBERTA-BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT

References: District President Report; Department of Outreach Report

WHEREAS there has been a special relationship developed between the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) and Lutheran Church – Canada (LCC) which is based on confessional agreement between the two church bodies; and

WHEREAS the two churches have engaged in church worker exchanges in the past and present; and

WHEREAS there has been a desire for meaningful partnership between the New South Wales District and the Alberta-British Columbia District by the District President of the New South Wales District; and

WHEREAS a partnership would,

1. Strengthen the bonds of Christian fellowship between our respective churches;
2. Enhance our Christian outreach in our Districts by praying for one another, by sharing ideas and resources (including workshops/conferences), and by sending short-term mission teams to participate in outreach efforts in one another's Districts;
3. Inspire our people to get a broader mission perspective;
4. Support one another in ministry as pastors/lay leaders and engage one another in "partnerships" for the purpose of praying for one another, sharing ideas, and even filling pastoral supply needs; and

WHEREAS the Council of President's of Lutheran Church – Canada have approved of developing closer ties with the Lutheran Church in Australia, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Alberta – British Columbia District President, in discussion with the New South Wales District President, work to formalize this partnership between the two Districts; and be it further

RESOLVED that once a partnership has been established that District staff develop the particulars of the plan and publicize the opportunities that exist for congregations and church workers; and be it finally

RESOLVED that congregations and pastors be encouraged to joyfully enter into prayer, dialogue, and resource sharing with congregations and pastors in the New South Wales District, and that members be encouraged to participate in short-term mission events in the Lutheran Church of Australia, and that pastors consider filling pastoral supply needs.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-01-02 TO REQUEST THAT THE ALBERTA – BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMUNICATION STAFF PERSON EVALUATE AND IDENTIFY TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND TO COACH/TRAIN CONGREGATIONS IN THE USE OF TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY AND OUTREACH PURPOSES

Reference: District President's Report

WHEREAS a significant portion of the population (i.e. both churched and seeker) use the internet and associated technologies as their primary means to find, contact, and learn about a local congregation; and

WHEREAS many congregations are not currently using, or able to use, communication technologies to the extent possible and/or desired; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Alberta – British Columbia District communication staff person be made available to provide assistance to congregations who desire to evaluate and prioritize technological improvements with regard to outreach, including but not limited to the consideration of the impact and cost effectiveness of the various technologies; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Alberta – British Columbia District communication staff person recommend advanced technologies and instruct in the use of these technologies through seminars, workshops, and articles that enhance a congregation's community outreach to the lost.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-01-03 TO REQUEST THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DISTRICT CALL A DISTRICT MISSIONARY TO SERVE AS MISSIONARY TO THE METROPOLITAN VANCOUVER AREA

Reference: Department of Outreach Report

WHEREAS the Biblical-confessional statement and focus of Lutheran Church – Canada is to reach out to all people in Canada and around the world (cf. Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 2:9; Rev 7:9; Constitution of Lutheran Church – Canada, Preamble, No. 3; Article III Objectives, 2; Synodical Bylaws C. Principles of Organization, 1.31.); and

WHEREAS the major urban Canadian centers receive the most influx of new immigrants with the Metropolitan Vancouver Area not being an exception; and

WHEREAS there are complex challenges facing congregations in a major metropolitan centre such as, the Metropolitan Vancouver Area, that hinder missionary focus, zeal, and effort; and

WHEREAS congregations in the Metropolitan Vancouver Area are engaged in sharing the Gospel with immigrants and developing intercultural congregations and schools, yet much more evangelistic outreach work needs to be initiated so that God’s gospel might be made known to many more immigrants; and

WHEREAS there are opportunities for joint efforts between congregations of the Vancouver Circuit and the Fraser Valley Circuit working in partnership with the Department of Outreach to enhance missionary outreach efforts in the Metropolitan Vancouver Area; and

WHEREAS the Department of Outreach has included the salary of a District Evangelist in its 2009-2010 budget; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the congregations of the Alberta – British Columbia District be encouraged to pray for the Lord to provide a District Evangelist to serve as a missionary to the Metropolitan Vancouver Area; and be it finally

RESOLVED that, by God’s will, a District Evangelist for Metropolitan Vancouver Area be called by the Alberta – British Columbia District Board of Directors by the beginning of 2010.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-01-04 TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH IMMIGRANTS AND, WHEREVER POSSIBLE TO BECOME INTERCULTURAL CONGREGATIONS

Reference: Department of Outreach Report

WHEREAS the Lord tells us to go and make disciples of all nations; and

WHEREAS the nations of the world continue to come to Canada; and

WHEREAS many immigrants are seeking community within the Canadian English-speaking world; and

WHEREAS St. Paul exhorts God's people to practice hospitality (Romans 12:13) and to "love our neighbor" (Romans 13:8-10); and

WHEREAS the Scriptures speak of the oneness of faith in the midst of cultural and linguistic diversity (Ephesians 2:11-22; 4:1-6; Galatians 3:26-29); and

WHEREAS the Church Militant is made up of believers from many nations of the world (Acts 2) and the Church Triumphant is pictured as a myriad of nations, tribes, people groups and languages surrounding the throne of the Lamb (Revelation 7:9); therefore be it

RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to identify the immigrant populations within their own communities; and be it further resolved

RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to investigate ways of making personal contact with the population for the purpose of developing relationships and sharing Christ's love; and be it further resolved

RESOLVED that congregations seek guidance, resources, and training in the implementation of cross-cultural outreach; and be it finally

RESOLVED that as immigrants become members of our congregations that the pastoral and lay leadership be committed to developing an intercultural congregation in which the diversity of culture/language is celebrated as a gift of God within the context of the oneness of the Christian faith.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-01-05 TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERS AND CHURCH WORKERS TO PRAY FOR, SUPPORT, INITIATE, AND BE INVOLVED WITH THE VANCOUVER 2010 OLYMPIC GAMES MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Reference: Department of Outreach Report

WHEREAS the 2010 Winter Olympic Games (February 12-28) and the 2010 Para-Olympic Games (March 12-21) will be coming to Vancouver; and

WHEREAS more than 300,000 people from over 80 countries will be coming to Vancouver to experience these cultural sporting events; and

WHEREAS Jesus said, "Preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15); and

WHEREAS the able-bodied Olympics and the Para-Olympics is more than a sporting event, but also an opportunity for Christian witness; and

WHEREAS a local Olympic task force made up of members from the Fraser Valley Circuit and Vancouver Circuit is helping to coordinate outreach activities at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vancouver and Trinity Lutheran Church in Richmond and other circuit congregations; therefore be it

RESOLVED that all members be encouraged to pray for peace in our cities and for all Christians involved in sharing the Gospel at the games and in particular the Christian witness of our own members and congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED that members be encouraged to volunteer for Christian witness activities at the Olympic Games in consultation with the local circuit task force and the Department of Outreach; and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations throughout the Alberta –British Columbia District and across Lutheran Church – Canada be encouraged to organize and host local outreach Olympic events (e.g. Olympic Vacation Bible School events; Opening Ceremony evening gatherings); and be it finally,

RESOLVED that pastors be encouraged to develop sermons and prayers with a “Lenten athletic theme” and share them with other Christian congregations.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-01-06 TO ENCOURAGE LUTHERAN SCHOOLS TO ENHANCE THEIR OUTREACH EFFORTS TO THE UNCHURCHED

Reference: District President’s Report; Report of the Department of Parish and School Services

WHEREAS Lutheran schools have been described as “mission driven schools” (cf. Alberta – British Columbia District Lutheran School Guidelines, September 1996, p. 4); and

WHEREAS Lutheran schools have an important and cherished role in providing a godly atmosphere for learning and for teaching children the basic truths of Scripture that God the Father is Creator of the universe; that God’s Son is the Saviour of the world and that the Holy Spirit brings people to faith and sustains them in the faith through Word and Sacrament; and

WHEREAS Lutheran schools are recognized as having a special opportunity to share the Gospel with students and their families who do not know Jesus as their Saviour; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Lutheran schools in the Alberta – British Columbia District be commended in their missional purpose and focus and be encouraged to intensify their focus on intentional outreach to the spiritually-lost people in their communities; and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations with Lutheran schools be encouraged to be more intentional in connecting the mission and ministry of the church to their school and vice versa; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Alberta – British Columbia District Executive Assistants of Outreach and Parish and School Services be invited to assist schools in evaluating and developing their outreach plans and strategies; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Lutheran Teacher’s Association make missional training and planning workshops available for their administrators and teachers.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-01-07 TO ENCOURAGE PASTORS, DEACONS AND CONGREGATIONS TO NURTURE A MISSIONAL MIND SET AND DEVELOP A MISSIONAL PLAN FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH TO THE LOST

Reference: Department of Outreach Report; District President’s Report

WHEREAS God has given to His Church His gifts of Word and Sacrament to “declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples” (Psalm 96:3; cf. Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Peter 2:9-10); and

WHEREAS Lutheran Church – Canada has always understood the need to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people, but especially with those who are spiritually-lost (Constitution Preamble, No. 3; Article III, 2, 3); and

WHEREAS the Department of Outreach continues to develop resources for enhancing congregational outreach to the lost, including missional leadership training opportunities, such as the Rural/Small Town conference, Pastoral Leadership Training (PLI); Equipping to Share workshops (EtS), Church Planting Schools; and the training of four individuals to consult and coach congregations in identifying goals and strategies which bring new people into the kingdom of God; and

WHEREAS Lutheran Church–Canada has also developed outreach resources for the Synod-wide Lutheran Open House and for the project One 2 One Connect; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that we give thanks to God for the outreach resources provided through the Department of Outreach; and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations and pastors be encouraged to nurture missional-minded leaders – pastors, deacons and lay leaders; and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to make use of the resources developed within the Synod and District to assist them in identifying mission opportunities, strategies, provide training and coaching; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Department of Outreach set as a priority the nurturing of a missional attitude among all God’s people by continuing to provide skill development and coaching and to promote the use of evangelistic outreach resources.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-01-08 TO REQUEST THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ONLINE VENUE TO SHARE OUTREACH RESOURCES AND IDEAS AND ENCOURAGE CONGREGATION SHARING OF RESOURCES

Reference: Department of Outreach Report

WHEREAS many congregations and church workers develop outreach ideas, materials, and plans for their local context; and

WHEREAS other congregations and church workers can benefit by sharing these ideas, materials and plans; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Department of Outreach develop an online venue so that these ideas, materials, and plans can be shared.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-01-09 TO ENCOURAGE PASTORS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN LOCAL CHAPLAINCY OPPORTUNITIES AND TO SUPPORT THEM IN THAT WORK

Reference: District President’s Report

WHEREAS the Lord has given his Church the ministry of Word and Sacrament for the comfort of all people (James 5:13-19; Lutheran Church – Canada Constitution Art. III, 4); and

WHEREAS all people live with the effects of life in a sinful world and therefore need God's comfort and hope; and

WHEREAS the Lutheran Church has a long history of providing spiritual care to people which has also created opportunities for sharing the Gospel with the lost; and

WHEREAS there are a number of pastors who serve as chaplains for the military, the legion, police, fire, and emergency medical services, and in correctional institutions, local medical facilities, and residential care homes; therefore be it

RESOLVED that we give thanks to God for the ministry of Word and Sacrament for the comfort of all people; and be it further

RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to permit their pastor(s) and support him where he has an opportunity to serve the community as chaplain; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Department of Outreach develop a means through which resources (e.g. papers, books, conferences, seminars) applicable to chaplains can be shared for their mutual benefit; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Department of Outreach organize an annual chaplain's conference for the purpose of providing mutual support, encouragement, and skill development.

ACTION: M/S/C

FLOOR COMMITTEE NUMBER 2

PARISH AND SCHOOL SERVICES

2009-02-01 TO STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT MULTIPLE STAFF MINISTRIES IN THE ABC DISTRICT

Reference: Convention Overture 2009-02-01

WHEREAS we recognize there are an increasing number of congregations with multiple staff ministries, in partnership in the Gospel for growth of the Kingdom of God (Phil 1:3-6; 1 Peter 2:9-10); and

WHEREAS we recognize these multiple staff ministries are unique and varied; and

WHEREAS attention has been drawn to the needs of multiple staff ministries through the pre-convention seminar just recently experienced; and

WHEREAS additional training, resources, and collaboration in the area of multiple staff ministries would be beneficial to the church in the growth of the Kingdom of God; therefore be it

RESOLVED that we thank God for the blessings and challenges of congregations with multiple staff ministries (Acts 2:47); and be it further

RESOLVED that the ABC District Board of Directors ensure the development of resources, ongoing training, and responsibility for congregations with multiple staff ministries; and be it finally

RESOLVED that we encourage and request the Board of Directors of Lutheran Church – Canada to direct Concordia University College of Alberta, Concordia Lutheran Seminary and Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary to review and address the training needs of future pastors and deacons for multiple staff ministries.

ACTION: M/S/C

MOTION: To dismiss floor committee #2 with thanks.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-02-02 TO DEVELOP MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO CARE FOR CHURCH WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Reference: Convention Overture 2009–02-02

WHEREAS the ABC District has undertaken leadership in developing more effective care for church workers and their families; and

WHEREAS church workers spouses face unique and sometimes challenging stresses and strains; and

WHEREAS other districts of LCC have, in the past, had spouses gather in retreat to discuss items of mutual concern, to support one another and to spend time in the Word together; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the ABC District, through its staff and departments, consult with church workers, spouses and congregations on developing opportunities which will be appropriately beneficial to spouses of church workers; and be it finally

RESOLVED that the District and congregations be encouraged to develop the necessary financial resources to make it possible for all church worker spouses to attend.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-02-03 TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO REQUIRE CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

Reference: Convention Overture 2009-03-02

WHEREAS it is mandatory for insurance purposes that educational institutions carry out criminal record checks as part of their screening process; therefore be it

RESOLVED that all congregations in the ABC District be encouraged to establish and implement a screening process including a criminal record check, and where appropriate a vulnerable sector check, for all staff, congregational leaders, directors, and volunteers.

MOTION: That the following be inserted in the final resolved: **“and where appropriate a vulnerable sector check,”**

AMENDMENT: M/S/C

ACTION: AMENDED

MOTION: M/S/C

FLOOR COMMITTEE NUMBER 3

DISTRICT AND ADMINISTRATION

2009-03-01 TO AMEND THE BYLAWS OF THE ABC DISTRICT TO REFLECT THE TRANSFER OF ABC DISTRICT FOUNDATION TO LCCFM

Reference: Overture 2009-03-01

WHEREAS the ABC District and the Central District of LCC had established and operated their own independent foundations for the benefit of the church; and

WHEREAS it was apparent that economies of scale for investment returns and reduction of management expense costs could be achieved through amalgamation of these foundations; and

WHEREAS a national Foundation would better reflect our walking together as Synod; and

WHEREAS LCC in convention had recommended the establishment of a national foundation; and

WHEREAS this foundation, the LCCFM, has been established; and

WHEREAS the BOD of the ABC District has considered and approved the merger of the ABC District Foundation with the LCCFM; and

WHEREAS this merger has been completed; and

WHEREAS this action requires a change in the bylaws of the ABC District; therefore be it

RESOLVED that section 4.5.h (Foundation Manager – full time) of the ABC District bylaws be deleted from the list of Appointive Offices, and the phrase “Foundation Services” be removed from section 5.3.h.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-03-02 TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF AN UMBRELLA INSURANCE LIABILITY COVERAGE FOR CONGREGATIONAL STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Reference: Overture 2009-03-02

WHEREAS congregations must address the growing risks of being without sufficient liability insurance for congregational leaders, directors, volunteers and staff, in regards to all liabilities, including allegations of abuse; and

WHEREAS recent liability claims and awards by the courts have substantially increased; and

WHEREAS providing assurance of protection for congregational leaders, directors, volunteers and staff as well as program participants is vital for all concerned; and

WHEREAS it may be expedient and/or advantageous to use the combined purchasing power of the member congregations of the ABC District of Lutheran Church – Canada; therefore be it

RESOLVED that congregations be encouraged to establish the required policies necessary for screening congregational leaders, directors, volunteers and staff; and be it further

RESOLVED that ABC District staff investigate the establishment of a Group Liability Insurance Policy to protect congregational leaders, directors, volunteers and staff; and be it further

RESOLVED that, if the ABC District is successful in obtaining such coverage, it be offered to member congregations; therefore be it finally

RESOLVED that participating congregations would be responsible for their own individual costs.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-03-03 TO DEVELOP A SABBATICAL POLICY FOR ROSTERED CLERGY OF THE ABC DISTRICT

Reference: Report of Salary Review Committee

WHEREAS recognizing the significant pressures placed upon the rostered church workers, their need for continuing education and the benefit of renewal that sabbaticals provide; and

WHEREAS church workers are subject to many pressures and stresses which are unique to the ministry; and

WHEREAS the Task Force on Church Worker Wellness has indicated, the concept of wholeness and wellness in ministry is an important principle in the life of the church; and

WHEREAS a healthy and effective congregation requires healthy church workers; and

WHEREAS this would help promote health and wholeness in our District and Synod; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the principle of the rostered church workers sabbatical be commended to the ABC District and its congregations, and be it further

RESOLVED that the District be requested to appoint to a committee, the responsibility to investigate policies and resources necessary to assist those congregations and rostered church workers who mutually agree to provide a sabbatical to their rostered church workers, and be it finally

RESOLVED that the congregations of the ABC District, as well as the District, be urged to support such a program should it be established.

ACTION: M/S/C
(**Amendment:** every occurrence of the word “Clergy” in the original motion be replaced with the term “Rostered Church Workers” – this change was made by consensus.)

2009-03-04 TO SUPPORT CONGREGATIONS AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Reference: District President’s Report

WHEREAS the world economy has undergone significant turmoil, and

WHEREAS this has resulted, or may result in, challenges to various District congregations and entities, and

WHEREAS Scripture calls upon those within the church to encourage one another and bear one another's burdens (Hebrews 10:25, Acts 4:32, Galatians 6:2), and

WHEREAS we acknowledge gratitude to God for his continued blessing, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the congregations of the ABC District be encouraged to remember in prayer their sister congregations, especially those affected by economic struggle, and be it finally

RESOLVED that CEF be encouraged to continue to serve the congregations of the ABC District with understanding regarding individual circumstances.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-03-05 TO THANK GOD FOR AND TO SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN OUR SHARED MISSION

Reference: Department of Outreach Report

WHEREAS God has blessed the ABC District with many opportunities to share the Gospel (ref. Outreach Department Report) and with varied resources with which to address those opportunities; and

WHEREAS we thank God for the faithful mission remittances from District congregations, through which the work of the Gospel is carried out within our District; therefore be it

RESOLVED that we encourage congregations to continue to prayerfully consider and support the existing and expanding mission opportunities that exist within our District.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-03-06 TO THANK THE HOST CONGREGATION AND CIRCUITS

Reference: None

WHEREAS Trinity Lutheran Church, Richmond, has graciously served as the host congregation for the 48th convention of the ABC District; and

WHEREAS the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Circuits have graciously served as the host circuits for the 48th convention of the ABC District; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the ABC District acknowledge and thank Trinity Lutheran Church and the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Circuits by rising and applauding them for their work.

ACTION: M/S/C

2009-03-07 TO RATIFY THE FOLLOWING NEW AND REVISED CONSTITUTIONS AND BYLAWS

Reference: Report of the Board of Directors

WHEREAS according to Synodical Bylaw 1.15(b.) of Lutheran Church-Canada, “A member congregation which translates, revises or amends its constitution or adopts a new constitution shall submit such translation, revision, amendment, or new constitution to the district president, who shall direct it through existing channels for review. Upon favourable action by the board of directors of the district, the congregation shall be notified that the changes are valid and approved and that the congregation is empowered to function under the new or changed constitution and bylaws. Such actions shall be submitted to the next convention of the district for ratification”; and

WHEREAS the following congregations have revised and amended their constitutions and bylaws and have received favourable action by the board of directors:

Hope Lutheran Church, Port Coquitlam, BC
Concordia Lutheran Church, Edmonton, AB
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Salmon Arm, BC
Zion Lutheran Church, Golden Spike, AB
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Creston, BC
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oliver, BC
Peace Lutheran Church, Spruce Grove, AB
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Stony Plain, AB
East Kootenay Lutheran Parish, Cranbrook, BC
Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Kamloops, BC

Therefore be it

RESOLVED that the ABC District in convention ratify the revised and amended constitutions and bylaws of the above-mentioned congregations.

ACTION: M/S/C

**2009-03-08 TO MODIFY THE BASIS OF ASSESSMENT ON CONGREGATIONS
FOR CONVENTIONS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA,
ALBERTA-BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT**

Reference: Unpublished Overture, 2009-03-03

WHEREAS presently the assessment for Conventions of the Alberta—British Columbia District is based upon a formula of ½ from a per parish assessment and ½ from a per communicant assessment,

WHEREAS many congregations have a much larger proportion of seniors, retired, and shut-in communicants on their roster than other congregations, and

WHEREAS many of these people are not able to regularly attend Divine Service, and

WHEREAS many congregations have regular attendees who are not communicant members and who have no inclination to become communicant members, and

WHEREAS this places a great burden on smaller and older congregations, who may struggle financially, and

WHEREAS we, as synod, should bear concern for our sister congregations' burdens, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the ABC District Board of Directors study the assessment process for District Conventions and Recommend appropriate changes, if applicable, for the next District Convention, and be it finally

RESOLVED that the ABC District Convention request Lutheran Church—Canada to similarly study the assessment formula for national Conventions.

ACTION: M/S/C

RESOLUTIONS DECLINED OR WITHDRAWN

None

II. We are called of Christ for living life forever . . . and now.

“Therefore, having been justified by faith... (Romans 5:1a)

“...we have peace with God” (Romans 5:1b)

“...we wait with patience” (Romans 8:25)

“...we overwhelmingly conquer” (Romans 8:37)

“Therefore,...living sacrifices...not conformed to this world” (Romans 12:1-2)

“They...” (Romans 1:18-32)

“But you...” (I Peter 2:9)

“...kingdom of priests...holy nation” (Exodus 19:5-6)

“...in the sight of the peoples” (Deuteronomy 4:5-8)

“...not conformed...but holy in all your behavior” (I Peter 1:13-16)

“...people who are free” (I Peter 2:13-17)

“...servants” (I Peter 2:18-25)

“...wives” (I Peter 3:1-6)

“...husbands” (I Peter 3:7)

“...elders” (I Peter 5:1-5)

“...as sojourners and exiles...among the Gentiles” (I Peter 2:11-12)

“...for to this you have been called” (I Peter 2:21, 3:9)

“Therefore,...by the mercies of God” (Romans 12:1)

Reflection Questions

Do you see a connection between faith in “the faith” (the full riches of the faith) and deeds of living sacrifice? Explain.

Would it be exciting or discouraging to see the priesthood of all believers primarily as godly vocation? Why?

How have you seen Christian citizens, employees, wives, husbands, and pastors each exemplify Paul’s instructions to them? How have their living sacrifices benefited or influenced others? Discuss lots of examples. When have you seen Christians of each vocation fail? What damage has it done?

If the priesthood is primarily the calling of each Christian to be what she or he is (Christian mother, father, student, secretary, accountant) wherever she or he is, have we in our congregations given sufficient encouragement? Might we ever detract from this by over-emphasizing other aspects of the priesthood?

How can we in our congregations more effectively exalt and encourage our members in whatever their callings might be?

Think about how the cross motivates our good works? Is there any other true motivation?

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