

**LCMS North Dakota District 59<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention**  
**Minutes – Session I**  
**Monday, January 22, 2018**

**Opening Worship**

Convention activities were opened with Rev. Mark Chepulis serving as celebrant for the Divine Service. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod; proclaimed the Word of *Unity in Christ* on the basis of Mark 1.

**Convention Opening**

Rev. Arie Bertsch, District President; officially called to order the 59<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of the North Dakota District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod at 10:03 am in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Registration and Credentials Report**

Rev. Russell Fitch, Chairman of the Registration, Credentials, and Election Committee; reported that 43 pastors, and 45 laymen, were present for a total of 88 registered voting delegates. It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the Registration and Credentials Committee Report.

**Agenda and Convention Rules**

The Chair introduced Rev. Dr. John Sias, Secretary of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod who will serve as the convention parliamentarian. The Chair also reviewed the convention rules as presented in the Convention Workbook. It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the convention rules as presented.

The convention agenda was reviewed by the Chair as presented in Monday Today's Business pages 170-173. It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the agenda as presented.

**Recognition of New Members to District**

President Bertsch reported that fourteen new pastors were admitted to the North Dakota District during the past triennium. The Chair introduced each pastor, who was present, to the assembly and Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison welcomed new members to the synod. New members include:

1. Rev. Aaron Hambleton, 6-21-2015, Redeemer, Lisbon
2. Rev. Zelwyn Heide, 8-16-2015, Our Redeemer, Grassy Butte
3. Rev. Jonathan Fisk, 5-3-2015, St. John's, Oakes
4. Rev. Matthew Tooman, 11-1-2015, Immanuel, Wahpeton
5. Rev. Jonathan Walla, 2-07-2016, Bethel, Bismarck
6. Rev. Jonathan Durkopp, 6-26-2016, Trinity, Adrian and Trinity, Lamoure
7. Rev. Paul Warnier, 2-19-2017, Zion, Claire City
8. Rev. Adam Filipek, 10-16-2016, Holy Cross, Lidgerwood and Immanuel, Rural Lidgerwood
9. Rev. Chris Brademeyer, (colloquy), 7-30-17, St. John, Oakes
10. Rev. Kevin Zellers, 8-27-17, Messiah, Mandan
11. Rev. Dan Suelzle, 9-13-2017, Wittenberg Chapel, Grand Forks
12. Candidate Daniel Mapur, 9-17-2017, Associate Pastor at Beautiful Savior, Fargo
13. Candidate Samuel Majak, 9-17-2017, Associate Pastor at Beautiful Savior, Fargo
14. Rev. Jon Bonine, 10-12-2017, Candidate Status

### **District President's Report**

President Bertsch presented what it means to have our *Unity in Christ*, which is the convention theme. True unity is found only the faith that is confessed, a faith which is to be reflected in the unity of doctrine and practice in the church of Christ in every congregation of the district and the synod. If our theology is right, and we are united in the teachings of God's Word and the Lutheran confessions, then we should also be united in our practice. President Bertsch's report will be included in the published proceedings of this convention

### **Convention Essayist**

The Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN; presented Part I of his presentation "*De Ceremoniis Ecclesiasticis*" On Church Usages or Ceremonies, Sometimes called "*Mitteldinge*" or *Adiaphora*".

### **Synod President Report**

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison presented the Synod report. He described how we live in very challenging times as evidenced in the culture all around us. Discontent, dissatisfaction, and depression are common, even among the body of Christ. The devil is seeking to rob our joy, destroy our families, lead us to despise every part of our lives and vocations and ultimately shepherd us into sin, great shame and vice. In the midst of this thick darkness, there is an antidote and a great reason for joy in Christ and His gifts of Word and Sacrament. God's Word of Law painfully reveals the truth of our sad condition, and His Word of Gospel grants the forgiveness of sins which creates true joy. God's Word creates and gives life and joy whenever we encounter it in our lives.

President Harrison also reported on the demographics of the Synod by sharing a summary of a recently commissioned study on demographic trends within the LCMS. The study revealed that the birthrate for the LCMS membership is currently down to 1%, which is unsustainable. In 1962 the birthrate was 4%, in 1972 it dropped to 2%, in 1982 it was barely 1% and it is still hovering at that level today. However, the decline in membership is only partially explained by a decreased birth rate. Issues with retaining children into their adult years remain another significant factor. It is also significant that the decline in membership is not due to the faithful practice of closed communion, or any other essential point of Lutheran doctrine or faithful liturgical practice. The various thoughts of man about how to reverse this trend by searching for more effective evangelism tools, church growth strategies, and worship innovations have been specious at best, and have been proven to provide no course of correction to the decline in LCMS membership. This situation will continue into the next generation. However, it is also noted that young LCMS families are enjoying a propensity to have more children today. This reality combined with faithful evangelism efforts, absolute faithfulness to God's Word, and being truly united in our doctrine and practice is how Christ grants increase to His Church through the Holy Spirit.

### **Adoption of Slate and Balloting for District President**

The Chair called upon Rev. Russell Fitch, Chairman of the Registration, Credentials and Elections Committee to give an updated report – Pastors 43, Laymen 45, for a total of 88, registered voting delegates.

The Chair requested nominations from the floor for District President, being none, nominations were closed, the slate was adopted. Rev. Fitch asked the delegates to vote on the slate for District President consisting of Rev. Arie Bertsch, Rev. Bernie Worrall, Rev. Joshua Reimche, Rev. Adam Moline, and Rev. Daryl Rothchild.

<b>First Ballot Results</b>	<b>Ballots</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Rev. Arie Bertsch	43	51%
Rev. Bernie Worrall	29	35%
Rev. Joshua Reimche	5	6%
Rev. Adam Moline	4	5%
Rev. Daryl Rothchild	<u>3</u>	<u>4%</u>
Totals	84	101%

The Rev. Arie Bertsch was elected to his first term as the North Dakota District President.

### **In the Word**

Rev. Sean Daenzer, Pastor of Peace Lutheran, Barney and Trinity Lutheran, Great Bend; presented a Bible study on *Unity in Baptism*. Baptism unites us with Jesus. Being united to Jesus unites *us* in Him. The unity of the church is a gift of the Spirit and we treasure this unity by striving for concord in doctrine, suffering, joy, and love.

### **Adoption of Slate and Balloting for District Vice Presidents**

The Chair called upon Rev. Russell Fitch, Chairman of the Registration, Credentials and Elections Committee to give an updated report – Pastors 43, Laymen 45, for a total of 88, registered delegates.

The Chair requested nominations from the floor for West Region District Vice President, being none, nominations were closed, the slate was adopted. Rev. Fitch asked the delegates to vote on the slate for West Region District Vice President consisting of Rev. Kirk Peters, and Rev. Joshua Reimche.

<b>West Region Results</b>	<b>Ballots</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Rev. Kirk Peters	55	71%
Rev. Joshua Reimche	<u>23</u>	<u>29%</u>
Totals	78	100

Rev. Kirk Peters was elected to his first term as West Region Vice President.

The Chair requested nominations from the floor for East Region District Vice President, being none, nominations were closed, the slate was adopted. Rev. Fitch asked the delegates to vote on the slate for East Region District Vice President consisting of Rev. Steve Schulz, and Rev. Sean Daenzer.

<b>East Region Results</b>	<b>Ballots</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Rev. Steve Schulz	54	68%
Rev. Sean Daenzer	<u>26</u>	<u>33%</u>
Totals	80	101

Rev. Steve Schulz was elected to his first term as East Region Vice President.

<b>Vice President Ranking Results</b>	<b>Ballots</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Rev. Steve Schulz	36	45%
Rev. Kirk Peters	<u>44</u>	<u>55%</u>
Totals	80	100

Rev. Kirk Peters was declared First Vice President. Rev. Steve Schulz was declared Second Vice President.

### **Business Manager and Treasurer Reports**

Mrs. Tami Ulland, Business Manager; reported on the various mission projects of the district. In regard to the district's financial commitment to mission projects, she presented a clear distinction between the "Standing Missions" that are essential to the ongoing ministry of the North Dakota District, and the "Triennial Mission Projects" that the district resolves to faithfully support at the convention. In the last decade, the district in convention has approved various "Triennial Mission Projects" which have subsequently not been fully funded by the congregations of the district, which means that the Board of Directors has had to utilize other reserve funds to make up the financial shortfall. Mrs. Ulland's full report will be attached to the published proceedings of this convention.

Mr. Leon Bladow, District Treasurer; presented an overview of the district's financial statement and reviewed the various funds that the Board of Directors has been utilizing to make up the shortfall between congregational gifts to the district and the "Triennial Mission Projects" adopted by the convention. The district is still in a very positive financial position since it has been blessed with some rather large gifts in recent years. However, these funds are limited one-time gifts, and the district needs to evaluate how to be better stewards when it comes to funding the "Triennial Mission Projects" adopted by the convention. Mr. Bladow's financial statements will be attached to the published proceedings of this convention.

### **Floor Committee #2 – Mercy**

The Chair called upon Floor Committee #2 Chairman Rev. Scott Ramey to present the Committee's resolutions.

#### *Resolution 2-01 To Faithfully Support Convention Resolutions and the Church's Mission*

The committee moved for adoption. There was no discussion, thus the Chair called for a vote, all voting "yes". Resolution Adopted.

2-02 *To Support the Mission of Christ's Care for Children – Kenya*

The committee moved for adoption. After some discussion, the Chair called for a vote, all voting “yes”. Resolution Adopted.

2-03 *To Continue International Mission Opportunities in Santiago, Chile*

The committee moved for adoption. After some discussion, the Chair called for a vote, all voting “yes”. Resolution Adopted.

2-04 *To Establish a North Dakota District Handbook*

The committee moved for adoption. After extended discussion, the Chair called for a vote, majority voting “yes”. Resolution Adopted.

Due to agenda time constraints, Floor Committee #2 was dismissed and will be recalled at a later time.

**Vespers**

Rev. Mark Chepulis, Convention Chaplain; faithfully proclaimed the Word of *Unity in Baptism* on the basis of Genesis 7. The Lord opened the windows of heaven to shower down his wrath, but in Jesus, who stood between the Father's wrath and us, we receive forgiveness and mercy in Holy Baptism. The waters that were once used to pour out the Father's wrath and destroy the world along with mankind's sinfulness, is now used to pour down forgiveness and eternal life according to Jesus' Word and promise.

**Recess**

The convention was recessed by President Bertsch at 5:42 pm for an evening social and meal, it will reconvene with Matins at 8:15 am on Tuesday.

**LCMS North Dakota District 59<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention**  
**Minutes – Session II**  
**Tuesday January 23, 2018**

**Morning Matins**

The 59<sup>th</sup> Convention of the North Dakota District LCMS reconvened at 8:15 am with The Order of Matins. Rev. Mark Chepulis served as liturgist and Rev. Kirk Peters served as preacher who faithfully proclaimed the Word of *United in Suffering and United in Grace*.

**Minutes**

Rev. Joshua Reimche, District Secretary presented the convention minutes from Monday, January 22, 2018; for approval by the convention. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes as presented.

**Ratification of The Slate of Circuit Visitors**

The slate of Circuit Visitors was presented consisting of the following:

- Northwest Circuit – Rev. Daryl Rothchild
- Northeast Circuit – Rev. Scott Ramey
- Central Circuit – Rev. Paul Preus
- Eastern Circuit – Rev. Leo Deitemeyer\*
- Southwest Circuit – Rev. Russell Fitch
- Southeast Circuit – Rev. Sean Daenzer\*\*

It was moved, seconded and passed to ratify the slate of Circuit Visitors as presented. The Chair called for a vote, all voting yes. The slate of Circuit Visitors was ratified.

*\*Note:* Before the initial Circuit Visitor Slate was ratified by the convention, Rev. Steve Schulz, who had been selected as the Eastern Circuit Visitor, was elected at Eastern Region District Vice President, and was thus disqualified to serve as Circuit Visitor. Subsequently, the Eastern Circuit suggested Rev. Leo Deitemeyer to the District President as a candidate for Circuit Visitor. President Bertsch concurred and later presented Rev. Deitemeyer to the convention for ratification as the Eastern Circuit Visitor.

*\*\*Note:* After the initial Circuit Visitor Slate was ratified by the convention, Rev. Adam Moline, who had been selected as the Southeast Circuit Visitor, was elected to the District Board of Directors, and was thus disqualified to serve as Circuit Visitor. Subsequently, the Southeast Circuit suggested Rev. Sean Daenzer to the District President as a candidate for Circuit Visitor. President Bertsch concurred and later presented Rev. Daenzer to the convention for ratification as the Southeast Circuit Visitor.

### **Convention Essayist**

The Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN; presented Part II of his presentation “*De Ceremoniis Ecclesiasticis*” On Church Usages or Ceremonies, Sometimes called “*Mitteldinge*” or *Adiaphora*”.

### **Grafton Life Skills and Transition Center**

Rev. Bernie Seter reported on the ministry that the North Dakota District provides to disabled souls Grafton. He reminded the assembly that all people need the gospel, and there is no special route to salvation for disabled people. Salvation comes to all through faith in Christ alone, having been buried with Him in baptism. The district’s work in Grafton faithfully proclaims Christ into the hearts and lives of these special saints.

### **Wittenberg Chapel Report**

Rev. Daniel Suelzle reported on the ministry at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. The students are greatly appreciative of Wittenberg Chapel and very thankful that the district is continuing to support this vital ministry.

### **Watford City Mission Start Report**

Rev. Zelwyn Heide reported on the St. Philip Lutheran mission start in Watford City. Various challenges have prevented the mission start from flourishing, the oil boom busted and a vacancy needed to be served. However, matters have settled down and Pastor Heide has plans to do more active outreach in the Watford City area.

### **Life Together Report**

Rev. Clark Jahnke presented an overview of continuing education events for pastors in the district and highlighted the various opportunities and activities that the District Youth Council (DYC) has been involved with. Video greetings were delivered from DYC by Sophie Semanko.

### **In the Word**

Rev. Dr. Matthew Richard, Pastor of Zion Lutheran, Gwinner; presented a Bible study on *Unity in Communion*. He focused on the word 'koinonia' from 1 Corinthians 10:16-17. He shared four incorrect views of 'koinonia,' followed by the correct view of 'koinonia.' The correct view of 'koinonia' being: not fellowship among people, but fellowship between people through sharing the same thing – Jesus and His gift of Word and Sacrament.

### **District Greetings**

Rev. Dr. Don Fondow, District President LCMS Minnesota North District; delivered greetings and spoke about the shared ministries between Minnesota North and the North Dakota District so that Christ's work and will may be done through our partnership in the Gospel. He gave thanks for our unity in northern ministry and looks forward to the future.

### **Shepherd's Hill at the Cross Roads Report**

Rev. Jon Bonine presented on the current status and work of Shepherd's Hill. The camp, located in the Turtle Mountains along the Canadian border, gives youth an opportunity to personally experience and enjoy God's creation and hear God's Word at the same time. The camp has experienced some difficulties in the past, but the future is bright and clear plans and goals are in place.

### **Synod Vice President Greeting**

Rev. Nabil Nour, Synod 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President addressed the convention according to Philippians 1, and spoke about rejoicing in the Gospel and the blessings and unity that are ours in Jesus Christ.

### **In the Word**

Rev. Adam Moline, Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran, Hankinson and St. John Lutheran, Belford; presented a Bible study on *Unity in Confession*. He described what a confession is, how confession unites and divides, what our confession is, and that we should be more open to talking about what our confession is.

### **Floor Committee #1 – Witness**

The Chair called upon Floor Committee #2, Chairman Rev. Steve Schulz to present the committee's resolutions.

*1-02 To Extend The Term of Office for the District President.*

The committee moved for adoption. Upon extended discussion, it was moved, and seconded to amend the resolution to 4 terms instead of 5. After further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to call the question and end debate on the proposed amendment. The Chair asked for a vote on calling the question: Yes 78 No 27. Debate ended.

The Chair called for a vote on the proposed amendment: Yes 26 No 57. The proposed amendment failed.

The Chair called for a vote on the resolution as originally presented: Yes 50 No 33. The resolution was adopted.



1-01 *To Establish the Location of the Offices of the District President and the District Manager*

The committee moved for adoption. Upon discussion the Chair called for a vote: Yes 73 No 10. The resolution was adopted.

**Convention Essayist**

The Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN; presented Part III of his presentation “*De Ceremoniis Ecclesiasticis*” On Church Usages or Ceremonies, Sometimes called “*Mitteldinge*” or *Adiaphora*”.

**District Secretary Election**

The Chair ask for nominations from the floor for District Secretary. Since there was only one nominee, and no nominations were made from the floor; it was moved, second and passed to cast a unanimous ballot. All voting yes. Rev. Joshua Reimche was elected to his second term as District Secretary.

**District Treasurer Election**

The Chair ask for nominations from the floor for District Treasurer. Since there was only one nominee, and no nominations were made from the floor; it was moved, second and passed to cast a unanimous ballot. All voting yes. Mr. Leon Bladow was elected to his third term as District Treasurer.

**Board of Directors – Ordained Election**

The Chair requested nominations from the floor for Board of Directors – Ordained. There being no further nominations, the slate was adopted. Two (2) clergy must be elected to positions on the Board of Directors from the adopted slate. Rev. Russ Fitch asked the delegates to vote on the slate for Board of Directors – Ordained consisting of:

Rev. Tom Marcis  
 Rev. Les Wolfgram  
 Rev. Adam Moline  
 Rev. Daryl Rothchild  
 Rev. Bernie Worrall  
 Rev. Dan Voth

**Election #1 – Ordained Board of Directors**

First Ballot Results: Rev. Les Wolfgram, Rev. Daryl Rothchild, and Rev. Dan Voth were removed from the ballot.

Second Ballot Results: Rev. Bernie Worrall was removed from the ballot.

Third Ballot Results: Tied between Rev. Tom Marcis and Rev. Adam Moline. The Chair called for another vote on the same candidates.

Fourth Ballot Results: Rev. Adam Moline received 51% of the votes cast.

Election #1 Results: Rev. Adam Moline was elected to his first term on the Board of Directors.

**Election #2 – Ordained Board of Directors**

First Ballot Results: Rev. Les Wolfgram, Rev. Daryl Rothchild, and Rev. Dan Voth were removed from the ballot.

Second Ballot Results: Rev. Tom Marcis received 54% of the votes cast.

Election #2 Results: Rev. Tom Marcis was re-elected to his third term on the Board of Directors.

**Board of Directors – Lay Election**

The Chair requested nominations from the floor for Board of Directors – Lay. There being no further nominations, the slate was adopted. Five (5) laymen must be elected to positions on the Board of Directors from the adopted slate. Rev. Russell Fitch asked the delegates to vote on the slate for Board of Directors – Lay consisting of:

Mr. John Riley  
 Mr. Shawn Longhenry  
 Mr. Ron Greenmyer  
 Mr. Paul Huber  
 Mr. Robert Luebke  
 Mr. Tom Boerger  
 Mr. Pete Hannebutt  
 Mrs. Kay Kreklau  
 Mr. Kirk Rosin  
 Mr. Mitch Semanko

**Election #1 – Lay Board of Directors**

First Ballot Results: Shawn Longhenry, Ron Greenmyer, Robert Luebke, Tom Boerger, Pete Hannebutt, Kirk Rosin, and Mitch Semanko were removed from the ballot.

Second Ballot Results: Kay Kreklau was removed from the ballot.

Third Ballot Results: John Riley received 59% of the votes cast.

Election #1 Results: Mr. John Riley was re-elected to his third term on the Board of Directors.

**Election #2 – Lay Board of Directors**

First Ballot Results: Shawn Longhenry, Ron Greenmyer, Robert Luebke, Tom Boerger, Pete Hannebutt, Kirk Rosin, and Mitch Semanko were removed from the ballot.

Second Ballot Results: Mr. Paul Huber received 66% of the votes cast

Election #2 Results: Mr. Paul Huber was elected to his first term on the Board of Directors.

**Election #3 – Lay Board of Directors**

First Ballot Results: Shawn Longhenry, Ron Greenmyer, Tom Boerger, Pete Hannebutt, Kirk Rosin, and Mitch Semanko were removed from the ballot.

Second Ballot Results: Mrs. Kay Kreklau received 56% of the votes cast.

Election #3 Results: Mrs. Kay Kreklau was elected to her first term on the Board of Directors.

**Election #4 – Lay Board of Directors**

First Ballot Results: Shawn Longhenry, Tom Boerger, Pete Hannebutt, Kirk Rosin, and Mitch Semanko were removed from the ballot.

Second Ballot Results: Mr. Robert Luebke received 67% of the votes cast.

Election #4 Results: Mr. Robert Luebke was elected to his first term on the Board of Directors.

**Election #5 – Lay Board of Directors**

First Ballot Results: Shawn Longhenry, Tom Boerger, and Mitch Semanko were removed from the ballot.

Second Ballot Results: Pete Hannebutt was removed from the ballot.

Third Ballot Results: Mr. Kirk Rosin received 54% of the votes cast.

Election #5 Results: Mr. Kirk Rosin was elected to his first term on the Board of Directors.

### **District Nominating Committee Election – Ordained**

The Chair called upon Rev. Russell Fitch, Chairman of the Registration, Credentials and Elections Committee to give an updated report; Pastors 43, Laymen 45, for a total of 88, registered voting delegates.

The Chair requested nominations from the floor for Ordained Nominating Committee, being none, nominations were closed, the slate was adopted. Two (2) clergy must be elected to positions on the Nominating Committee from the adopted slate. Rev. Russell Fitch asked the delegates to vote on the slate for Ordained Nominating Committee consisting of:

- Rev. Daryl Rothchild
- Rev. Dr. Matt Richard
- Rev. Clark Jahnke
- Rev. Sean Daenzer
- Rev. Scott Ramey
- Rev. Brandon Woodruff

#### **Election #1 – Ordained Nominating Committee**

First Ballot Results: Rev. Sean Daenzer, Rev. Scott Ramey, and Rev. Brandon Woodruff were removed from the ballot.

Second Ballot Results: Rev. Daryl Rothchild was removed from the ballot.

Third Ballot Results: Rev. Dr. Matt Richard received 52% of the votes cast.

Election #1 Results: Rev. Dr. Matt Richard was elected to his first term on the District Nominating Committee.

#### **Election #2 – Ordained Nominating Committee**

First Ballot Results: Rev. Sean Daenzer, Rev. Scott Ramey, and Rev. Brandon Woodruff were removed from the ballot.

Second Ballot Results: Rev. Clark Jahnke received 53% of the votes cast.

Election #2 Results: Rev. Clark Jahnke was elected to his first term on the District Nominating Committee.

### **District Nominating Committee Election – Lay**

The Chair requested nominations from the floor for Lay Nominating Committee, being none, nominations were closed, the slate was adopted. Four (4) laymen must be elected to positions on the Nominating Committee from the adopted slate. Note: Mr. John Riley was originally nominated for the committee, however he was previously elected to the District Board of Directors and was thus disqualified from serving on the committee,

leaving only four candidates on the slate. It was moved, seconded and passed to cast a unanimous ballot. All voting yes.

The elected lay members of the Nominating Committee are: Mr. Robert Wurl, Mr. Bob Bauer, Mrs. Sue Corwin, and Mr. Greg Nelson.

### **Floor Committee #3 – Life Together**

The Chair called upon Floor Committee #3, Chairman Rev. Adam Moline to present the committee's resolutions.

#### *3-02 Changes To District Bylaws To Comply With Recommendations From Synod Committee on Constitution Matters*

The committee moved for adoption. The Chair called a vote. All voting yes. Resolution adopted.

#### *3-03 To Change to District Bylaws to Coincide with Synod Bylaws*

The committee moved for adoption. The Chair called a vote. All voting yes. Resolution adopted.

#### *3-06 To move Binford and Cooperstown Congregations to the Central Circuit.*

The committee moved for adoption. The Chair called for a vote. All voting yes. Resolution adopted.

#### *3-04 To Unite in a Common Marriage Policy.*

The committee moved for adoption. The committee accepted a friendly amendment to the resolution as follows: Line 5, (1<sup>st</sup> Whereas) strike “redefined marriage” and change to “requiring” to “required”. Line 4, (1<sup>st</sup> Whereas) strike “trial” and change to “decision”. Majority voting yes. Resolution adopted.

#### *3-01 To Update the LCMS ND District Articles of Incorporation.*

The committee moved for adoption. The Chair called for a vote. All voting yes. Resolution adopted.

#### *3-05 To Be United in the Practice of Closed Communion.*

The committee moved for adoption. Upon extended discussion, it was moved and seconded to call the question and end discussion. The Chair called for a vote to end discussion. All voting yes, discussion ended. The Chair called for a vote by show of hands. Majority voting yes. Resolution adopted.

### **Vespers**

Rev. Mark Chepulis, Convention Chaplain served as liturgist. Rev. Joshua Reimche proclaimed the Word according to Isaiah 40, about the Word of God that stands forever and the blessing of eternal life that is ours through Christ.

### **Evening Recess**

Due to the convention being over schedule, and having more matters to address than the schedule will accommodate on Wednesday, the Chair recessed the convention at 5:38 pm for supper, with instructions for the convention to reconvene at 8:30 pm for a special evening session.

### **Convention Special Evening Session**

The Chair reconvened the convention at 8:30 pm for a special evening session.

### **Floor Committee #2**

The Chair called upon Floor Committee #2, Chairman Rev. Scott Ramey to present the committee's resolutions.

*2-05 To Commit To Providing District Salary Guidelines For All Church Workers.*

The committee moved for adoption. Majority voting yes. Resolution adopted.

*2-06 To Unite in Commending and Thanking Our Lutheran Educators.*

The committee moved for adoption. All voting yes. Resolution adopted.

*2-07 To Commend The Years Of Service Of Bill Sharpe And Evelyn Allensworth.*

The committee moved for adoption. All voting yes by standing to sing the doxology. Resolution adopted.

### **Synod Nominations Committee**

The North Dakota District is required to elect one ordained delegate and one ordained alternate to serve on the Synod Nominations Committee. The Chair requested nominations from the floor for Synod Nominations Committee, being no further nominations, the slate was adopted consisting of: Rev. Adam Moline, Rev. Joshua Reimche, and Rev. Sean Daenzer.

First Ballot Results: Rev. Joshua Reimche received 51% of the votes cast.

Second Ballot Results: Tied between Rev. Adam Moline and Rev. Sean Daenzer. The Chair called for another vote on the same candidates.

Third Ballot Results: Rev. Adam Moline received 51% of the votes cast.

Election Results: Rev. Joshua Reimche was elected as delegate and Rev. Adam Moline as alternate for the Synod Nominations Committee.

### **Recess**

The convention was recessed by President Bertsch at 9:08 pm, and will reconvene with Matins at 8:00 am on Wednesday morning.

**LCMS North Dakota District 59<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention**  
**Minutes – Session III**  
**Wednesday January 24, 2018**

**Morning Matins**

The 59<sup>th</sup> Convention of the LCMS North Dakota District reconvened at 8:15 am with The Order of Matins. Rev. Mark Chepulis served as liturgist and Rev. Arie Bertsch, District President served as preacher who proclaimed the Word of *Fighting the Good Fight*, according to 1 Timothy 6, by making a good confession and confessing the faith faithfully.

**Convention Offering Report**

The Chair reported that the convention offering totaled \$17,509.64. The offering has been designated for the support of the Campus Ministry at Wittenberg Chapel in Grand Forks.

**District Communications**

Mrs. Marie Johnson provided an overview of how communications and social media are managed for the district. There is a Facebook page, website, enews, and The Lutheran Witness. She asked that if congregations have Facebook pages to please share them with her and if they would like any information in the other media to please send it to her.

**Minutes**

Rev. Joshua Reimche, District Secretary presented the convention minutes from Tuesday, January 23, 2018; for approval by the convention. With two minor corrections suggested by the assembly, it was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes as presented.

**Synod Report Question and Answer**

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, Synod President responded to questions about Synod from the floor.

**In The Word**

Rev. Zelwyn Heide, Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran, Grassey Butte; and St. Peter, Belfield; presented a Bible study on *Unity in Mission*.

**District Board of Directors Report**

Rev. Tom Marcis, Chairman of the LCMS North Dakota District Board of Directors presented the Board of Directors report. He reported that 2017 was a particularly challenging year with the resignation and departure of The Rev. Dr. James Baneck,



former District President to accept a call as the Executive Director of Pastoral Education for Synod in St. Louis and the death of Bill Sharpe, the former District Business Manager.

The board is the legal representative and trustee of all property owned by the district. The board is also tasked with fulfilling the outcomes policies that the district convention determines to accomplish during the next triennium. During the last triennium, the board appointed Jason Paradis and Tina Davidson to strengthen the board in its mission of guiding and aiding the work of mission and ministry throughout the district. Rev. Marcis also gave an overview of what the board does and how it carries out its business.

### **Unfinished Business**

According to Resolution 2-01, the convention must prioritize the adopted Triennial Mission Projects. Two projects were adopted: Christ's Care for Children – Kenya at \$30,000 and Continuing our Partnership with the Lutheran Church in Chile, at \$75,000.

In answer to a question from the floor, the chair noted that if there is a small shortfall between congregational gifts received and the full cost of the Triennial Mission Project, the district will make up that small difference from Board directed funds.

The Chair asked for a vote by show of hands to prioritize. Results: #1 Kenya, #2 Chile.

### **Final Registration and Credentials Report**

Rev. Russell Fitch, Chairman of the Registration, Credentials, and Election Committee; reported that 43 pastors, and 45 laymen, were present during the convention, for a total of 88 registered voting delegates.

### **Installation of District Officers**

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, Synod President installed President Bertsch, who then installed the Vice Presidents, Circuit Visitors, Members of the Board of Directors, and District and Synod Nomination committee members.

### **Recess and Close of Convention**

The 59<sup>th</sup> Regular Convention of the LCMS North Dakota District was closed by President Bertsch at 11:48 am.