

MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

June 16-18, 2016

University of Alberta - Augustana Campus; Camrose, Alberta

Liberated by God's Grace

Thursday, June 16, 2016

The sixteenth biennial convention of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories began at 2:00 p.m. in the Augustana chapel with an Opening Eucharist Hymn Festival and the Order for Opening of Convention.

FIRST SITTING –

1. OPENING

At 3:45 p.m. Chairperson Pastor Tim Posyluzny, Synod Chairperson, welcomed delegates, guests and visitors to the sixteenth biennial convention of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories.

2. WELCOME TO TREATY 6 LAND

Rev. Canon Travis Enright and Donna Enright offered delegates a welcome to Treaty 6 Land. Bishop Kochendorfer presented traditional gifts to them.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Tim Posyluzny introduced those on the podium: Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, Secretary Marilyn Murray, Treasurer Stephen Wildfang, and recording secretary Dave Stolee.

He acknowledged Synod staff, and welcomed special guests including Sheila Hamilton, Vice-Chair, National Church Council and Trina Gallop-Blank from the National Bishop's Office on behalf of National Bishop Susan Johnson.

He also welcomed Keynote Speakers National Bishop Susan Johnson (via video), Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen, and Rt. Rev. Mark McDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop.

The following Honoured Guests were welcomed: Rev. Dr. Brian Rude - In Mission with El Salvador; Rev. Dr. Michael Nel - Acting President of Luther Theological Seminary; Tom Brook - Director, Community Relations, CLWR; Marcus Busch - President, Board of Directors, CLWR; Lisa Thiessen - Executive Director, ELCIC Group Services; and Wayne Hove - President of Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute.

Individuals who lead and serve at the Convention were also introduced.

Chair Tim Posyluzny introduced rostered people new to the Synod as since the last convention, as well as those who have retired.

Chair Tim Posyluzny reported that that St. Paul Lutheran Church, Burstall, Saskatchewan, has been accepted into the roster of congregations of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories since the last convention.

4. REFLECTION

Delegates introduced themselves to those sitting near them and engaged in discussion about their expectations about their time together at this convention.

5. AGENDA

ABT 16-01 MOVED AND SECONDED that the agenda for the convention be adopted as distributed. CARRIED.

6. ORIENTATION OF DELEGATES

Chair Tim Posyluzny provided an orientation to the convention. Pastor Daranne Harris was introduced as convention chaplain. Convention committees were introduced.

Pastor Calvin Skriver explained the role of the parliamentarian.

Pastor James Hendricksen outlined procedures related to the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

7. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE

The Committee for Registration and Attendance reported the attendance as of 3:30 P.M. as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Rostered delegates | 93 |
| Lay delegates | 61 |
| Total delegates | 154 |
| Visitors and Guests | 35 |
| Volunteers | 19 |
| Synod Staff | 2 |

A quorum was declared present.

8. SECOND READING OF AMENDMENT TO THE SYNOD CONSTITUTION

Stephen Wildfang introduced an amendment to the constitution that was passed for the first time at the last convention.

ABT 16-02 MOVED AND SECONDED that second reading be given to an amendment to the Synod Constitution, Article VI, Section 10, Procedures for Withdrawing, to read as follows:

A congregation desiring to withdraw from this church shall notify the synod bishop.

Decision to withdraw must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote at a legally called and conducted meeting and immediately reported to the synod bishop. Decision to withdraw shall not be effective until action has been ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of those who were members at the time of the first vote. This subsequently legally called and conducted meeting held not less than 90 days and not more than 180 days after the first vote to withdraw. CARRIED.

9. AMENDMENT TO PART VI OF THE SYNOD BYLAWS

Stephen Wildfang introduced on behalf of Synod Council an amendment to the Synod Bylaws regarding nominations and elections of delegates to the national church convention.

ABT 16-03 MOVED AND SECONDED that Part VI of the Synod Bylaws regarding Nominations and Elections of Delegates to the National Church Convention be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Nominations for Delegates

- a. Six months in advance of a synod convention at which delegates to a national convention will be elected, the secretary of the synod council shall call for nominations for lay, youth and rostered delegate positions. Nominations shall close 60 days prior to the opening of the convention at which the elections shall take place. There will be no nominations from the floor for delegates to national convention during the synod convention.
- b. Complete information including nomination process, conference, congregational membership and biographical details must be received at the synod office 30 days prior to the opening of the convention for the nomination to be accepted. Nomination forms will be available through the synod office.
- c. Eligible nominees shall be:
 - i. rostered members who are members in good standing of a congregation within the existing conference boundary;
 - ii. lay members in good standing in a congregation within the existing conference boundary;
 - iii. youth members in good standing in a congregation who will be between the ages of 16 and 25 inclusive on the first full day of the next national convention.
- d. There shall be no restriction on the number of nominees who hold membership in any given congregation; however, congregations may only be represented by one delegate with the exception of youth delegates. In the event of the election of more than one delegate from a congregation, with the exception of youth delegates, the congregation's church council will be advised of the election following the synod convention by the secretary of synod council. In consultation with the executive committee and/or the synod bishop and the elected delegates the congregation's church council will determine by majority vote who will serve as delegate.
- e. Nominations for lay and youth delegates will be accepted within existing conference boundaries provided:
 - i. the nomination form is signed by 10 members in good standing of ABT synod congregations; or
 - ii. the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a congregational annual meeting of a member congregation.
- f. Nominations for rostered delegates will be accepted within existing conference boundaries provided:
 - i. the nomination is form is signed by 10 members in good standing of ABT congregations; or
 - ii. the nominee is endorsed by either a congregational council or a congregational annual meeting of a member congregation; or
- g. A list of all nominees and their biographies shall be published in the convention docket.

Section 2. Allocation of Lay, Rostered and Youth Delegates

- a. During synod convention delegates will elect two lay and one rostered national convention delegates from each of the synod's areas (as defined in the synod bylaws). Two youth delegates shall be elected on an "at-large" basis without reference to a particular area. If the allotted number of seventeen delegates are not elected during a synod convention for any reason, the synod council shall appoint the necessary number lay, rostered or youth delegate(s) at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
- b. Synod council shall appoint any remaining lay and/or rostered delegates at its next regularly scheduled meeting to meet the total number of delegates eligible to attend national convention as allotted by the ELCIC. These appointments will seek to reflect gender balance, geographical and diaconal/ordained minister representation.
- c. Elected lay, rostered and youth delegates are eligible to attend two, but not three, consecutive national conventions.

Section 3. Order of Election

- a. Nominees (rostered, lay and youth) receiving the greatest number of votes on the first ballot from each conference shall be declared elected. Where multiple positions are being filled for any one delegate category, nominees shall be declared elected on the basis of the highest number of votes received on the first ballot. If necessary, second ballots shall be held to break ties.

Section 4. Replacement of Delegates

- a. In cases where elected delegates are unable to attend due to a change in roster status or a geographical/conference location change the executive committee and synod bishop shall appoint a replacement. Whenever possible, the replacement shall be the nominee who received the next greatest number of votes during the balloting process at the relevant synod convention.

The convention recessed for dinner at 5:30 p.m. Chaplain Daranne Harris led in prayer. It was agreed that the convention would reconvene at 6:30 p.m.

SECOND SITTING -

The convention reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

10. FIRST BALLOT FOR CHAIR

Stephen Wildfang outlined the process for election of Synod Chairperson. Chaplain Daranne Harris led the convention in prayer.

Ballots were collected, and balloting was declared closed.

11. AMENDMENT TO PART VI OF THE SYNOD BYLAWS

Consideration of the bylaw amendment continued.

ABT 16-04 MOVED AND SECONDED that the wording of Section 1.c.i of the amendment be retained as printed in the bulletin of reports, to read:

rostered members, called and actively serving a ministry such as a congregation, chaplaincy, or called interim, and member of a congregation within the existing conference boundary, and that if we want to include retired rostered members we alter Section 1.c.ii to read lay members or retired rostered members in good standing in a congregation within the existing conference boundary. The amendment to the amendment was DEFEATED.

The vote on the amendment will take place in Sitting 4.

12. GREETINGS AND REPORT FROM THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

National Bishop Susan Johnson sent her regrets that she was unable to attend the convention in person. Sheila Hamilton, Vice President, National Church Council, presented Bishop Susan Johnson's report. Bishop Kochendorfer thanked Sheila Hamilton and Trina Gallop-Blank for their service to the church and presented gifts on behalf of the synod.

13. GREETINGS FROM ELCIC GROUP SERVICES INC.

Lisa Thiessen, Executive Director, brought greetings on behalf of ELCIC Group Services Inc. Bishop Kochendorfer thanked Lisa Thiessen for her hard work on behalf of the church, and presented her with a gift from the synod.

14. REPORT OF THE BISHOP

Bishop Larry Kochendorfer presented the Report of the Bishop.

15. VIDEO - SPIRIT-LED LEADERSHIP

Pastor Ann Salmon, member of Synod Council, introduced the Video Series on Mission Priorities. The first video in the series, "Spirit-Led Leadership" was viewed. Delegates spent time in discussion reflecting on what they heard for the first time, what surprised them, and on what caught their attention in the video.

The convention recessed at 8:30 p.m.

An evening worship service of prayer and healing around the cross was held in the chapel. The service included remembrance of the clergy and clergy spouses who have died since the last convention.

Friday, June 17, 2016

At 8:15 a.m. delegates gathered for Morning Eucharist.

THIRD SITTING—

Chair Tim Posyluzny called the third sitting of the convention to order at 9:00 a.m.

16. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE

The Committee for Registration and Attendance reported attendance as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Rostered delegates | 103 |
| Lay delegates | 74 |
| Visitors and Guests | 41 |
| Volunteers | 20 |
| Synod Staff | 2 |

17. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Results of the first ballot for election of chairperson were reported as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| Dennis Aicken | 1 | Howard Mastin | 3 |
| Bonnie Arends | 1 | Paul McCormick | 2 |
| Vern Begalke | 1 | Bob McKinnie | 1 |
| Reg Berg | 1 | Jonathan Mohr | 1 |
| Laird Borst | 1 | Marilyn Murray | 1 |
| Signi Bruner | 1 | Eleanor Ness | 1 |
| Lorelai Campbell | 1 | Chris Nojonen | 1 |
| Jeff Decelle | 2 | Phil Penrod | 3 |
| Kayko Driedger Hesslein | 1 | Tim Posyluzny | 6 |
| Bruce Ehlert | 1 | Kevin Powell | 4 |
| George Freidrich | 1 | Richard Reimer | 1 |
| Barbara Groote | 1 | Darryl Roste | 1 |
| Daranne Harris | 3 | Rita Roste | 2 |
| James Hendricksen | 10 | Lisa Rude | 1 |
| Phil Hink | 1 | Trish Schmermund | 5 |
| Tim Hoff | 1 | Kathy Schmitke | 1 |
| Gordon Jensen | 1 | Horst Schreiber | 2 |
| Rod Jerke | 1 | Carl Sorensen | 2 |
| Marc Jerry | 13 | Barb Stolee | 1 |
| Wendy Kalkan | 1 | Wayne Street | 23 |
| Larry Kochendorfer | 2 | Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson | 3 |
| Allyn Langager | 1 | Craig Wentland | 1 |
| John Lentz | 1 | Stephen Wildfang | 5 |
| Norman Lentz | 1 | Kristian Wold | 4 |
| Phil Lokken | 1 | Lee Woolery | 1 |
| Matt Lyseng | 1 | Tim Wray | 4 |

134 ballots were cast. 3 ballots were spoiled. The number needed to elect on the first ballot was 99. There was no election.

Stephen Wildfang outlined the process for the second ballot for the election of chairperson. Pastor Daranne Harris led in prayer. Ballots were distributed. Balloting was declared closed.

18. DWELLING IN THE WORD

Pastor Julianne Barlow, Assistant to the Bishop for Missions, led the convention in Dwelling in the Word, based on Ephesians 2:8-9. Delegates discussed what in this scripture passage caught their attention, and what God is saying to us through it here and now.

19. VIDEO - SPIRIT-LED DISCIPLESHIP

Mike Harmon, member of Synod Council, introduced the second video in the Video Series on Mission Priorities, "Hope-filled Discipleship." Delegates engaged in discussion about what they heard for the first time, what surprised them, and what caught their attention.

20. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINUTES

The Committee on Minutes reported that they have reviewed the minutes of the first and second sittings and found them accurate. Copies will be distributed to delegates when they are available.

21. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee presented nominations for Synod Council and the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Directors, as included in the bulletin of reports. Nominations were invited from the floor, and there were none. Voting will take place in Sitting 4.

22. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

The Committee for Reference and Counsel presented Petition #1 as follows:

That the process for electing elected rostered and lay delegates to the National Convention be revisited.

ABT 16-05 MOVED AND SECONDED that this petition be referred to Synod Council. CARRIED.

Petition # 2 was presented as follows:

That the bishop, in consultation with the AiRR Ministry Team be responsible for developing resources, materials and opportunities for congregations and other synod ministry teams that would encourage right relationships with Indigenous peoples.

ABT 16-06 MOVED AND SECONDED that this petition be approved. CARRIED.

Petition #3 was presented as follows:

That Synod Council, on behalf of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories, petition National Church Council to update the 1987 "Guidelines for Inclusive Language."

ABT 16-07 MOVED AND SECONDED that this petition be approved. CARRIED.

23. GREETINGS FROM PASTOR BRIAN RUDE, IN MISSION WITH EL SALVADOR

The Rev. Dr. Brian Rude brought greetings from El Salvador, and reported on his work there. Bishop Kochendorfer thanked him on behalf of the Synod for his service there for more than 25 years, and presented him with a gift.

24. KEYNOTE PRESENTATION - "SALVATION NOT FOR SALE"

The Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen, William Hordern Chair of Theology at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon made a presentation on Salvation Not for Sale. Bishop Kochendorfer expressed the thanks of the Synod and presented him with a gift. Delegates engaged in conversations related to the presentation.

25. GREETINGS FROM LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The Rev. Dr. Michael Nel, Acting President, brought greetings from Lutheran Theological Seminary. Bishop Kochendorfer thanked him for his presentation and presented a gift on behalf of the Synod.

26. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Results of the second ballot for election of chairperson were reported as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------------|----|---------------------|----|
| Jeff Decelle | 4 | Kevin Powell | 4 |
| George Freidrich | 1 | Rita Roste | 2 |
| Daranne Harris | 2 | Trish Schmermund | 12 |
| James Hendricksen | 17 | Kathy Schmitke | 3 |
| Phil Hink | 1 | Horst Schreiber | 1 |
| Gordon Jensen | 1 | Carl Sorensen | 1 |
| Rod Jerke | 2 | Barb Stolee | 1 |
| Marc Jerry | 22 | Wayne Street | 47 |
| Larry Kochendorfer | 3 | Julianna Wehrfritz- | 4 |
| John Lentz | 1 | Craig Wentland | 2 |
| Phil Lokken | 2 | Stephen Wildfang | 1 |
| Matt Lyseng | 1 | Kristian Wold | 4 |
| Marilyn Murray | 1 | Lee Woolery | 3 |
| Phil Penrod | 2 | Tim Wray | 7 |
| Tim Posyluzny | 7 | | |

160 ballots were cast. 1 ballot was spoiled. The number needed to elect on the first ballot was 106. There was no election.

Stephen Wildfang outlined the process for the third ballot for the election of chairperson. Rev. Daranne Harris led in prayer. Ballots were distributed. Balloting was declared closed.

27. CELEBRATION OF ROSTERED LEADERS - 25 YEARS

Bishop Kochendorfer and Marilyn Murray presented gifts to the following rostered leaders were recognized for celebrating 25 years of ordination during the last biennium: Peter Chau, David Friesen, Sigmar Reichel, Fred Schneider, and Kang Kim Wong.

28. CELEBRATION OF THE TREASURER'S SERVICE

Stephen Wildfang, Treasurer, was also recognized for 25 years of service to the Synod.

The third sitting closed at 12:20 p.m. with Rev. Daranne Harris leading the convention in prayer.

FOURTH SITTING--

At 1:30 p.m. the convention gathered in song, led by Dr. Joy Berg.

29. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE

The Committee for Registration and Attendance reported attendance as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Rostered delegates | 112 |
| Lay delegates | 72 |
| Visitors and Guests | 48 |
| Volunteers | 19 |
| Synod Staff | 2 |

30. VERBAL REPORT FROM SYNOD COUNCIL

Marilyn Murray presented the report of Synod Council as included in the Bulletin of Reports, and provided an opportunity for questions.

There was an opportunity to ask questions of the Ministry Teams.

Wayne Street provided information about the Synod's Mission Priorities and Outcomes.

31. ADOPTION OF AUDITED STATEMENTS

Stephen Wildfang, Treasurer, presented audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015, as well as comments on financial matters in the Synod.

ABT 16-08 MOVED AND SECONDED that the financial statements and financial report included in the Bulletin of Reports be adopted. CARRIED.

Stephen Wildfang presented the budgets for 2016 and 2017 which were included in the bulletin of reports. Budget approval is on the agenda for Sitting Five.

32. COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS REPORT

Results of the third ballot for election of chairperson were reported as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| James Hendrickson | 25 |
| Marc Jerry | 35 |
| Trish Schmermund | 33 |
| Wayne Street | 65 |

159 ballots were cast. 1 ballot was spoiled. The number needed to elect on the first ballot was 79. There was no election.

Stephen Wildfang outlined the process for the third ballot for the election of chairperson, and also called for the ballots for election to Synod Council and Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Directors.

Rev. Daranne Harris led in prayer. Ballots were distributed. Balloting was declared closed.

33. KEYNOTE PRESENTATION - HUMANITY NOT FOR SALE

National Bishop Susan Johnson made her presentation by video. The presentation was introduced by Sheila Hamilton, Vice-Chair, National Church Council.

34. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINUTES

The Committee on Minutes reported that they have reviewed the minutes of the third sitting and found them accurate. Copies have been distributed to delegates.

35. DRAFT CONSTITUTION

Stephen Wildfang presented proposed changes to the Synod Constitution as included in the Bulletin of Reports on pages 115-125.

ABT 16-09 MOVED AND SECONDED that changes to the Synod Constitution be adopted for the first time as presented.

These changes will not be effective until approved for a second time at the next convention.

ABT 16-10 MOVED AND SECONDED that in Article VI, Section 7 of the proposed changes the word pastor be replaced with rostered minister. CARRIED.

ABT 16-11 MOVED AND SECONDED that the proposed Article XI, Section 1, be changed to read “The synod shall be organized regionally into areas whose number and boundaries shall be determined by the synod in convention upon the recommendation of the Synod Council.” DEFEATED.

It was agreed that wording related to inclusive language in this document may be made.

ABT 16-12 MOVED AND SECONDED that the debate be closed and a vote be taken on the motion. CARRIED.

The motion to adopt changes to the Synod Constitution for the first time was CARRIED as amended by motion ABT 16-10.

Stephen Wildfang drew attention to the draft bylaws on pages 126-148 of the Bulletin of Reports. These will not be considered until after the changes to the constitution are adopted. Synod Council would welcome any comments on the draft bylaws.

36. BYLAW AMENDMENT

Discussion continued on motion ABT 16-03 regarding Part VI of the Synod Bylaws which was introduced in the first sitting.

Copies of the proposed amendment and the motion were distributed.

ABT 16-13 MOVED AND SECONDED that Part VI of the Synod Bylaws regarding Nominations and Elections of Delegates to the National Church Convention be adopted as presented.

ABT 16-14 MOVED AND SECONDED that Section 2.a of the proposal be amended by changing the word areas to conferences, and that the words “as defined in the synod bylaws” be deleted, and other references to areas in this section be replaced by the word conferences. CARRIED.

ABT 16-15 MOVED AND SECONDED that Section 1.c.iii be amended by inserting the words “of this synod” after the word congregation. CARRIED.

ABT 16-16 MOVED AND SECONDED that Section 1.e.ii and Section 1.f.ii be amended by substituting the words “general congregational meeting” for “congregational annual meeting”. CARRIED.

ABT 16-17 MOVED AND SECONDED that section 1.d be amended by deleting the words “by majority vote” from the last line. CARRIED.

It was agreed that in section 1.c.ii and iii the word “in” a congregation be changed to “of”.

ABT 16-18 MOVED AND SECONDED that section 4 be amended by deleting the words “due to a change in roster status or a geographical/conference location change,” CARRIED.

ABT 16-19 MOVED AND SECONDED that Section 2.b be amended by substituting the words “a balance of gender” for “gender balance”. CARRIED.

ABT 16-20 MOVED AND SECONDED that section 1.a be amended by striking out the last two sentences. By agreement this motion was modified to change the wording to allow nominations at synod conventions. DEFEATED.

ABT 16-21 MOVED AND SECONDED that the debate be closed and a vote be taken on the motion to amend. CARRIED.

ABT 16-22 MOVED AND SECONDED that the debate be closed and a vote be taken on the amendment to the Part VI of the Synod Bylaws. CARRIED.

The motion to adopt the proposed amendment to Part VI of the Synod Bylaws was CARRIED as amended.

37. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

Ballots were distributed for election of delegates to the next national convention. Rev. Daranne Harris led in prayer. Balloting was declared closed.

38. GREETINGS FROM CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Marcus Busch, president, brought greetings and a report from Canadian Lutheran World Relief. He was joined by Tom Brook, CLWR Director of Community Relations. Bishop Kochendorfer thanked them for the report and for their work, and presented both with gifts on behalf of the Synod.

39. CELEBRATION OF ROSTERED LEADERS - 40 YEARS

Bishop Kochendorfer and Marilyn Murray presented gifts to the following rostered leaders who were recognized for celebrating 40 years of ordination during the last biennium: Ken Grambo, Erland Nord, Thomas Peterson, and Lee Woolery.

40. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Results of the fourth ballot for election of chairperson were reported as follows:

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Marc Jerry | 34 |
| Trish Schmermund | 36 |
| Wayne Street | 86 |

156 ballots were cast. The number needed to elect was 79. Wayne Street was declared elected.

Rev. Daranne Harris led a prayer of thanksgiving.

The convention was recessed at 5:45 p.m.

A Festival Banquet was held at the Norsemen Inn at 6:00 p.m. The following rostered persons were honoured for serving this church for fifty years: Robert Breitwieser, Glen Carlson, Richard Hanson, and Donald Rasmussen. Honoured for 60 years were: Edwin Bowen, Emil Krause, and Harold Martin.

Saturday, June 18, 2016

At 8:15 a.m. delegates gathered for a service of Morning Prayer and Song.

FIFTH SITTING—

Chair Tim Posyluzny called the fifth sitting to order at 9:00 a.m.

41. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REGISTRATION AND ATTENDANCE

The Committee for Registration and Attendance reported attendance as follows as of 8:15 a.m.:

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Rostered delegates | 112 |
| Lay delegates | 72 |
| Visitors and Guests | 42 |
| Volunteers | 19 |
| Synod Staff | 2 |

42. DWELLING IN THE WORD

Pastor Julianne Barlow, Assistant to the Bishop for Missions, led the convention in Dwelling in the Word, based on Ephesians 2:8-9. Delegates discussed what in this scripture passage caught their attention, and what God is saying to us through it here and now.

43. VIDEO - SPIRIT-LED LEADERSHIP

Terrie Coombs, member of Synod Council, introduced two more videos from the Video Series on Mission Priorities: Innovative Traditions and Collaborative Partnerships.

Rev. Paul McCormick, member of Synod Council, invited delegates to spend time in discussion reflecting on what they heard for the first time, what surprised them, and on what caught their attention in the video.

44. OPERATING BUDGETS FOR 2016 AND 2017

Stephen Wildfang presented the operating budgets for 2016 and 2017 as included in the Bulletin of Reports.

ABT 16-23 MOVED AND SECONDED that the operating budgets for 2016 and 2017 be approved as included in the Bulletin of Reports. CARRIED.

45. COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS REPORT

Results of the vote for **Synod Council** were announced as follows:

Elected by Acclamation:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Northern Conference- Lay | Mike Harmon |
| West Central Conference - Lay | Mark Ree |
| South West Conference - Lay | Terrie Coombs |

Elected by Majority Vote:

East Central - Rostered

Charlotte Strecker-Baseler 60

Deborah Ann Taylor 90 Deborah Ann Taylor was declared elected.

West Central - Rostered

John Lentz 119

Art Weiss 33 John Lentz was declared elected.

Southern - Lay

Walter Alksne 49

Wendy Kalkan 99 Wendy Kalkan was declared elected.

Results of the vote for a lay representative to the Lutheran Theological Seminary Board of Governors were reported as follows:

Dianne Kieren 66

Laureen Wray 90 Laureen Wray was declared elected.

Results of the vote for **delegates to National Convention** were reported as follows:

Elected by Acclamation:

Youth Representatives

Chad Garson and Nyajuok Kulang

East Central Conference – Lay

Vivian Baier and Ruth Jensen

East Central Conference – Rostered

Rev. Paul McCormick

Elected by majority vote:

Northern Conference – Lay

Sheryl Dubois 63

Mike Harmon 69

Nancy Kadatz 33

Minna Peever 34

Margaret Sadler 53

Gretta Smith 27 Sheryl Dubois and Mike Harmon were declared elected.

Northern Conference – Rostered

Rev. Barbara Groote 39

Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen 40

Rev. Aaron Schnell 23

Rev. Heidi Wachowiak 31 Rev. Dr. James Hendricksen was declared elected.

West Central Conference – Lay

Gail Berg 130

Sharon Besler 66

Ebeline Zee-Hawtin 52 Gail Berg and Sharon Besler were declared elected.

West Central Conference – Rostered

Rev. Scott Brown 19

Rev. Dr. Marc Jerry 58

Rev. John Lentz 67

Rev. John Lentz was declared elected.

South West Conference – Lay

Terrie Coombs 108

Gary Mihaichuk 77

Betty Pollack 60

Terrie Coombs and Gary Mihaichuk were declared elected.

South West Conference – Rostered

Rev. Kayko Driedger Hesslien 30

Rev. Dr. Laura Holck 14

Rev. Kristian Wold 40

Rev. Dr. Tim Wray 56

Rev. Dr. Tim Wray was declared elected.

Southern Conference – Lay

Anna Follinglo 50

Gerde Lewke 50

Colin Millang 72

Adena Skanderup 79

Colin Millang and Adena Skanderup were declared elected.

Southern Conference – Rostered

Rev. Jeff Decelle 89

Rev. Tom Peterson 55

Rev. Jeff Decelle was declared elected.

46. GREETINGS FROM LUTHERAN COLLEGIATE BIBLE INSTITUTE

Wayne Hove, President, brought greetings and a report from Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute. Bishop Kochendorfer thanked him for his presentation, and presented him with a gift.

47. REPORT OF THE NECROLOGIST/ARCHIVIST

Rev. Gary Nickel presented the report of the Necrologist/Archivist as included in the Bulletin of Reports.

48. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

The Committee for Reference and Counsel reported that they had no further petitions to report at this time.

49. REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE EXAMINING THE REPORT OF THE BISHOP

Rev. Trish Schmermund and Caleb Sorenson reported on behalf of the Committee Examining the Report of the Bishop. They commended him for his spirit, service, and leadership. They also recognized and thanked his wife, Cathy, for her engagement with the Synod. Delegates expressed their appreciation and support with enthusiastic standing applause.

50. APPROVAL OF MISSION PRIORITIES FOR 2016 - 2018

Chair Tim Posyluzny drew attention to the Mission Priorities and Outcomes included in the Bulletin of Reports

ABT 16-24 MOVED AND SECONDED that the Mission Priorities and Outcomes for 2016 - 2018 be approved as presented in the Bulletin of Reports. CARRIED.

The fifth sitting was recessed at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Daranne Harris led in prayer.

SIXTH SITTING—

At 1:15 p.m. the convention gathered in song, led by Dr. Joy Berg.

51. KEYNOTE PRESENTATION - “CREATION NOT FOR SALE”

The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop, made a presentation on Creation Not for Sale, and responded to questions and comments from delegates. Bishop Kochendorfer expressed the thanks of the Synod and presented him with a gift.

52. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINUTES

The Committee on Minutes reported that they have reviewed the minutes of the fourth and fifth sittings and found them accurate. Copies will be distributed to delegates when they are available.

53. GIFTING OF RESOURCES

Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Dr. Julianne Barlow invited delegates to discuss at their tables what at the convention excited them and what they would take home. Some delegates shared their observations with the convention.

Bishop Kochendorfer advised delegates that there are bags of resources available for each congregation. These include the Hymn Festival and a DVD of the videos on spirit-led shown at the convention, together with a study guide.

54. MOTION TO DESTROY BALLOTS

ABT 16-25 MOVED AND SECONDED that ballots cast at this convention be destroyed. CARRIED.

55. EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

Bishop Kochendorfer expressed thanks to Dave Stolee, recording secretary, for his many years of service, and to Wendy Grosfield, convention manager, and presented gifts to them.

Bishop Kochendorfer also expressed special thanks to Rev. Tim Posyluzny for his service as Synod Chairperson for the past eight years.

56. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REFERENCE AND COUNSEL

The Committee for Reference presented the following petition:

ABT 16-26 MOVED AND SECONDED that the Synod of Alberta and the territories in convention recognize the immense amount of work that has gone into preparing for, and operating this convention. Given that, expressions of thanks are offered, but not limited to, the following people and groups:

- Convention Manager
- Local Arrangements Committee
- Local Volunteers including Stewards, Hospitality, Registration, Cookie Makers, Banquet preparations and facilities people and presenters . . .
- Convention Office staff (including Synod office staff)
- Worship Planners, Chaplain, Musicians, Readers, worship assistants and all those who helped with worship in any way.
- Convention and Event Sponsors, Display Providers and those providing health advice and other information.
- To Augustana Campus and the staff here for the use of their facilities and the hospitality they offer.
- To the Convention Committees: Reference and Counsel, Registration and Attendance, Committee on the report of the Bishop, Elections Committee, Committee on Report of the Minutes, Nominating Committee and our Parliamentarian.
- To our presenters and special guests
- To the Bishop, Synod council and the officers
- To the delegates, congregations who sent them, and visitors
- And last but not least, to our Triune God, who gives us life, the opportunity for partnership in mission and the promise of salvation.

To God be the Glory.

The motion was CARRIED.

57. CLOSING AND ADJOURNMENT

Chair Tim Posyluzny expressed thanks to convention sponsors as follows:

- Lutheran Triune Educational and Benevolent Society of Calgary for awarding a grant for the videos,
- CLWR for sponsoring the Hymn Fest and the Ordination Anniversary Celebration,
- The Good Samaritan Society for sponsoring the Welcome Reception
- The Bethany Group for sponsoring Keynote Speaker Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen
- Faith Life Financial for providing bags, pens and notepads.

At 2:45 p.m. the convention was declared adjourned.

At 3:00 p.m. the convention gathered in the chapel for a closing worship service and Bishop Kochendorfer led the Order for Closing of Convention