

MINUTES, WELS 60TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
JULY 28, 2009
MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY
SAGINAW, MICH.

The opening devotion was led by Pastor Paul Prange, administrator of the Board for Ministerial Education. The devotion was based on Ephesians 1:11 using the theme, "Christ's Love: Love from Eternity." Prange emphasized the thought, "The romance is in the planning" as Jesus chose us from eternity even though he knew what we would be like. This is grace—the Savior's undeserved love for each of us.

President Mark Schroeder announced that the minutes of yesterday's session would not be read from the podium. The body was asked to review the minutes privately and present any corrections or revisions to the secretary.

Pastor James Huebner announced his acceptance of the call to serve as the first vice president of the synod.

Teacher Matthew Koepsell, reporting for the Elections Committee, read the bylaw description for the office of WELS second vice president. A nominating ballot was held for a special election for that office for a two-year term to complete the unexpired term of James Huebner. After all ballots were collected, the nominating ballot was declared closed.

Prof. John Brenner began presentation of the essay "Christ's Love Demonstrated in the Efficacy of the Means of Grace." (The essay is contained in the 2009 convention *Proceedings*.)

The essay was interrupted for a report from the Elections Committee. Pastors Paul Naumann, Earle Treptow, and Joel Voss received the most votes on the nominating ballot. Printed biographies were distributed. After all ballots were collected, the balloting was closed.

It was moved and supported to adopt the minutes for Mon., July 27. The motion carried.

Brenner completed presentation of his essay.

The Elections Committee reported the need for a runoff election between Treptow and Voss for the position of second vice president. After all ballots were collected, the balloting was closed.

Discussion of the essay was held. It was moved and supported to accept the essay with thanks. The motion carried.

Schroeder announced the election of Joel Voss as second vice president.

After announcements, a break was declared. Floor committees met for the remainder of the morning session.

The afternoon session opened with a devotion led by Pastor Paul Prange based on Ephesians 1:12-14 with the theme "Our Calling: Called to Believe." As the adopted children of the heavenly Father, we all have an equal inheritance with the only begotten Son; it is delightful and it is guaranteed. We trust, we worship, we listen, we believe.

Pastor Joel Voss announced the acceptance of the call to serve as the second vice president of WELS.

Koepsell, chairman of the Elections Committee, read the bylaw description for the office of recording secretary. The nominating ballot was cast and after all ballots were collected, the nominating ballot was closed.

Mr. Tim Probst, Vice President of Marketing and Development for the WELS Church Extension Fund (CEF), presented a report from the CEF. He was thanked for his presentation.

President Schroeder welcomed a guest from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Pastor Paul Zager.

Pastor David Kehl, acting administrator for Parish Services, presented a report from WELS Parish Services. He was thanked for his presentation.

Pastor Harold Hagedorn, Home Missions administrator, presented a report for Home Missions. He introduced Pastor Charles Westra, chairman of the Board for Home Missions, who shared additional information. The men were thanked for their presentations.

The Elections Committee reported five names nominated for the position of recording secretary (five names were presented due to a four-way tie): Teacher Paul Blakely, Teacher Michael Hertig, Pastor Joel Otto, Pastor Robert Pasbrig, and Pastor Daniel Voigt. After all ballots were collected, the balloting was closed.

A 15-minute recess was declared at 3:05 p.m. When the afternoon session resumed, Pastor Daniel Koelpin, administrator for World Missions, presented a world missions report. He was thanked for his report.

President Schroeder announced the re-election of Pastor Robert Pasbrig as the WELS recording secretary.

The Elections Committee provided instructions for Ballot A. Nominations were opened for the various positions listed on Ballot A. There were no nominations from the floor for any of the listed positions, and the nominations for each of those positions were closed. After all the ballots were collected, the balloting was closed.

Pastor Mark Henrich, chairman of Floor Committee #3, presented Reports #03-00 and #03-01, which dealt with the President's Report. It was moved and supported to adopt Resolution #03-01. The motion carried. It was moved and supported to adopt Resolution #03-02 with a correction. The motion carried. It was moved and supported to thank Committee #3. The motion carried.

Pastor Joel Spaude, chairman, presented resolutions from Floor Committee #24, Ad Hoc—Structure, Convention, Communications. It was moved and supported to adopt Resolution #24-03. The motion was defeated. It was moved and supported to adopt Resolution #24-04. The motion carried. It was moved and supported to adopt Resolution #24-05. The motion carried. It was moved and supported to adopt Resolution #24-06. The motion carried. It was moved and supported to adopt Resolution #24-07. The motion carried. It was moved and supported to adopt Resolution #24-08. The resolution was withdrawn. It was moved and supported to thank Committee #24. The motion carried.

Pastor Wayne Uhlhorn, chairman, presented reports #09-GR and #09-GR2 for Committee #9, World Missions.

Pastor Martin Bentz, chairman, presented the report of Floor Committee #14, Constitutional Matters. Adoption of Resolution #14-01 with a revision was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority. Adoption of Resolution #14-02 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority. Adoption of Resolution #14-3 was moved and supported. The motion carried by more than a two-thirds majority. Resolution #14-04 was moved and supported. The motion was defeated. It was moved and supported to thank Committee #14. The motion carried.

Teacher Justin Gregorius, chairman of Committee #07, Communications, presented Resolution #07-01. This resolution, with a change, was moved and supported. The motion carried. It was moved and supported to thank Committee #07. The motion carried.

Pastor Harland Goetzinger, chairman of Floor Committee #02, Synodical Council, presented Resolution #02-01. This resolution was moved and carried. The motion carried. It was moved and supported to thank Committee #02. The motion carried.

Pastor Paul Prange closed the afternoon session with prayer. After announcements, the session was adjourned.

After the evening meal, an open hearing was held to discuss the Ad Hoc Commission Report.