

2015 SELC DISTRICT CONVENTION

He is Risen! ... We Will Rise!

He Lives! ... We Will Live!

April 9-12, 2015

(Summary)

DAY ONE- Thursday

The Convention opening worship service began at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison (LCMS president) preached. His sermon was based on 1 Corinthians 15. Dr. Harrison noted that the church needs apostolic preaching in churches today. Christians will have to stand up for their faith more frequently in the years to come.

DAY TWO - Friday

The day began with breakfast, devotions and circuit forums. Circuit forums met to elect representatives from their circuit for positions on circuit, district and denomination. There were discussions regarding the "District Viability Survey" and Concordia Plans.

The following individuals were elected or nominated:

	East	Central	West	South
Circuit Visitor	Rev. James Douthwaite, Vienna, VA	Rev. Ken Ballas, Parma, OH	Rev. Luther Bajus, Norridge, IL	Rev. Brian Roberts, Oviedo, FL
Synod Convention Delegate Pastoral	Rev. Steven Bocklage, Emporia, VA	Rev. John Telloni, Massillon, OH	Rev. Paul Biber, St. Louis, MO	Rev. Wally Arp, Oviedo, FL
Synod Convention Lay Delegate	Larry Schultz, Macungie, PA	Matthew Berent, Sharon, PA	Bill Hale, Granite City, IL	Kathy Sinninger, Lake Mary, FL
Synod Convention Delegate Alternate Pastoral	Rev. Curtis Stephens, Hazleton, PA	Rev. Kevin McLeod, Malvern, OH	Rev. David Corson, St. Louis, MO	Rev. Mark Moreno, Melbourne, FL
Synod Convention Delegate Alternate Lay	Joan Sitler, Clark, NJ	Millie Kwiatkowski, Parma, OH	Daniel Geyer, Racine, WI	Leslie Heumann, Viera, FL

Nominations Committee (Pastoral) (Next District Convention)	Rev. Ray Malec, Bethlehem, PA	Rev. David McCloskey, Steubenville, OH	Rev. Matthew Vesey, Cudahy, WI	Rev. Brian Roberts, Oviedo, FL
Nominations Committee (Lay) (Next District Convention)	John Dubrucky, Greenwich, CT	Tom Moffatt, Malvern, OH	Daniel Geyer, Racine, WI	Leslie Heumann, Viera, FL
LCMS Nominations Committee Nominees (Lay)	Thelma Myers, Vienna, VA	Jon Carpenter, Massillon, OH	Donna Vesey, Cudahy, WI	Tom Fowler, Tampa, FL

- ★ The 17th Regular SELC District Convention was brought to order by Rev. Dr. Carl H. Krueger Jr., president, at 1 p.m.
- ★ Pastors and congregational representatives since the last convention were welcomed and invited to sign the SELC district bylaws. New pastors include: David Corson, Jacob Hoyer, Curtis Stephens, William Whitehead, Kevin McLeod, Chris Johnson, David McCloskey, Phil Matarazzo, Roy Minnix, Kurt Steinbrueck, Congregations- Jacob's Well, St. Louis, MO; St. John, Bound Brook, NJ; and Christ, Portland, Maine.
- ★ LCEF representatives Sandy Sauter and Mike Mueller announced that over the past years \$407,307 has been given to the SELC district from LCEF operating results.
- ★ The circuit delegates each had opportunity to introduce themselves to the rest of the convention.
- ★ Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison presented the Synodical report noting that Synod has gone from \$16 million borrowed years ago to \$0 borrowed now and with three months operating budget in the bank. By May the Synod will have doubled the number of career missionaries. The biggest reason for church declines across denominational lines is cultural changes. Washington DC office will be opened to speak for life, marriage and religious freedom. There is a growing need for more seminary graduates to fill vacant churches in the Synod.
- ★ Rev. Dr. Peter Meier, executive director of the Center for United States Missions present to the convention. He stated that the best and most fruitful strategy for reaching and discipling new people are new mission starts.
- ★ An afternoon devotion was conducted by Rev. Curtis Stephens.
- ★ David A. Fiala, the assistant director for LCMS missionary recruitment was introduced. He was a missionary in Slovakia.
- ★ The District convention recessed for the evening at 8:10 p.m.

DAY THREE - Saturday

- ★ The president, Rev. Dr. Carl H. Krueger Jr. brought the convention to order at 9:27 a.m.

- ★ President Krueger gave the SELC president's report.
- ★ Resolution 2015-01 was approved that offered thanks to God for he and Dianne's faithful and loving service over the past 18 years as president and administrative secretary and the appointment of President Krueger as president emeritus.
- ★ Motion made, seconded and approved to ratify Rev. Luther Bajus (Norridge, IL) as the Western Circuit Visitor, Rev. Brian Roberts (Oviedo, FL) as the Southern Circuit Visitor, Rev. Kenneth Ballas (Parma, OH) as the Central Circuit Visitor and Rev. James Douthwaite (Vienna, VA) as the Eastern Circuit Visitor.
- ★ Rev. Chris Ongstad was recognized by the District for 18 years of service as recording secretary.
- ★ Rev. Tony Steinbron, New Jersey district president brought his greetings to the convention.
- ★ George Loffmark of Lutheran Lay Ministries Association greeted the convention delegates.
- ★ LCMS Synodical President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison offered a prayer before the election of the district president.
- ★ Lutheran Haven director Linda Kirk and Donna Wilkinson presented on the preparations for a 46 apartment building for clients soon to be built.
- ★ Bruce Sutherland from Lutheran Hour Ministries made a powerpoint presentation.
- ★ Rev. Andrew Dzurovcik, Clark, NJ was elected as president of the SELC District.
- ★ Gift Planner, Robin Paris, presented to the convention on her work in gift planning in the district and the LCMS Foundation.
- ★ Treasurer's report presented by Robert Lange showed an increase of district assets from \$672,984.41 in 2012 to \$805,015.95 in 2014.
- ★ Rev. Wally Arp (Oviedo, FL) was elected as first vice president.
- ★ Mission report was presented by district mission executive, Rev. Paul Hoyer and Rev. Jacob Hoyer both from Lake Mary, FL sharing with the convention the different missions going on in the district.
- ★ Rev. Chris Cahill (Lodi, OH) was elected as 2nd Vice President of the district.
- ★ Rev. Chris Ongstad (Alsip, IL) was elected as 3rd Vice President of the district.
- ★ Rev. John Telloni (Massillon, OH) was elected as district recording secretary.
- ★ Robert Lange (Norridge, IL) was elected unanimously as district treasurer.
- ★ Larry Schultz (Macungie, PA) was elected unanimously as district financial secretary.
- ★ Financial Secretary Larry Schultz reported that receipts from the congregations of the district were over 100% of goals.
- ★ Laura Bergmann, LWML district president, reported that over \$100,000,000 in mites for missions has been received in the lifetime of the international LWML.
- ★ Rev. Ron Meyr (Viera, FL), Donald Roegge (Hazleton, PA), Paul Biber (St. Louis, MO) and Millie Kwiatkowski (Parma, OH) were elected to the SELC Board of Directors.
- ★ In the evening the Circuit Forums convened to choose pastoral representatives to represent their circuit to the Lutheran Haven.
- ★ The district convention reconvened after the Circuit Forums and Rev. Wally Vinovskis (Macungie, PA) representing the Eastern Circuit, Rev. George Hansel (Lakewood, OH) representing the Central Circuit, Rev. Luke Jacob (Racine, WI) representing the Western Circuit and Rev. Wally Arp (Oviedo, FL) representing the Southern Circuit were ratified

as circuit representatives to the Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees. Ardyne Kirn (Crown Point, IN) was elected as lay representative to the Lutheran Haven board.

- ★ District Stewardship director, Rev. Thomas Soltis (Parma, OH) gave his report that included the statement that the 2015 budget for the district is \$667,430.
- ★ The District Work program for 2016-2018 was approved by the delegates.

DAY FOUR - Sunday

- ★ After a spiritually rousing service of worship and the Lord's Supper and a great brunch President Carl Krueger convened the convention delegates at 12:37 p.m.
- ★ Resolution 2015-04, "Resolution Regarding Children and Families" was approved.
- ★ Resolution 2015-02, "Resolution Regarding the Solemnizing of Marriages" was approved.
- ★ President Krueger announced that the next district convention will be in 2018.
- ★ Motion made, seconded and approved that the Board of Directors solicit invitations from the Western Circuit and that place and time be publicized at the General Pastoral Conference in 2016.
- ★ The 17th Regular Convention of the SELC District was closed in the name of the Trinity at 1:34 p.m.