

MINUTES
THE 53rd CONVENTION OF THE LCMS NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT
THE CENTRAL WISCONSIN CONVENTION + EXPO CENTER
ROTHSCHILD, WISCONSIN
June 5-6, 2022

CONVENTION THEME:
“Labor of Love”

The 53rd convention of the LCMS North Wisconsin District opened with worship at 4:30 p.m. at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Weston, WI. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, Synod President. The Rev. Ryan Fehrmann, convention chaplain, served as liturgists and celebrant.

SESSION #1
Sunday, June 5, 2022

1. **CONVENING OF THE CONVENTION**

President Dwayne Lueck opened in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The credentials chairman reported a quorum with 204 voting delegates and 51 advisory delegates.

Moved and seconded to accept.

2. Attorney David Piehler was introduced as parliamentarian and read through the special standing rules. Request to amend standing rule #4. Amended that one may call the question after at least three delegates have spoken to the question. Clarification sought to change “anyone” to “any voting delegate” in the proposed amendment to the standing rule. DJ Schult gave instructions on using the voting pads. Motion: Any voting delegate may call the question only after three delegates have spoken to the question. Vote – Yes, 98, **No, 103**. Original standing rule remains. Motion made by DP to adopt the agenda. Voice vote. Approved. Point of order on standing rule #5. Noted that we need also to raise right hand. Vote taken again. Passed. Instructions given to those who will speak from the stage and those who may vote (differentiation between yellow, red, blue on badge – advisory, guest).
3. District President’s Address – President Lueck spoke on the convention theme from Nehemiah regarding the rebuilding of the Jerusalem wall (Labor of Love). Recalled impact of the pandemic on the church (crumbling of the wall that we now are rebuilding). He expressed thanks for the great work of the pastors, teachers, and other professional church workers. He noted challenges for the future for church workers: vacancies, aging of church workers, new graduates declining, enrollments down for church work students, differentiation between rostered teachers vs. hired, principal vacancies. He addressed Synodical Res. 6-01 and shared a video discussing that synodical resolution (“Set Apart to Serve” – intentional conversations to encourage youth to enter church work) by the Rev. Dr. James Baneck.
4. Nominations – 5.01.b – Names for District President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Board of Directors, Nominations Committee, and Synod Committee for Nominations, that were nominated (with nomination accepted) were read by the chairman of the nomination’s committee. Motion made to accept the nomination ballot: **Yes, 198**, No, 0. Ballot accepted as presented. Also, nominees for Synod Advisory Delegate to the National Convention were read.
5. Ballot for District President – First Vice President Tim Roser was brought forward to chair this election. The usual speech was waved. Motion was made for a vote of acclamation (voice and hand). Passed. Motion made to elect **District President Dwayne Lueck** (voice and hand). Passed. Electronic vote

taken to support vote of acclamation. **202 votes. No contrary votes.** Lueck addressed the convention as a point of personal privilege expressing his gratitude for serving the district.

6. First Ballot for Vice Presidents – Election of VP for **Region A**: A. Rev. Bryan Lundquist - 32, Rev. Dr. Daniel Olson - 49, Rev. Timothy Shoup – **107. Rev. Shoup elected.** – **Region B**: Rev. Joel Danner - 50, Rev. Ryan Fehrmann - 72, Rev. Steve Hulke – 73. No majority. * Second ballot: Fehrmann - **104**, Hulke – 96. 101 needed. *Rev. Fehrmann elected.* **Region C**: Rev. David Knefelkamp - 30, Rev. Preston Paul - 85, Rev. William Plautz – 80. No majority. *

Second Ballot: **Paul - 108**, Plautz – 89. *Rev. Preston Paul elected.*

Vote for vice president ranking: Shoup - 115, Fehrmann - 44, Paul - 39. **Rev. Timothy Shoup is now First Vice President.** * Next vote for Second VP: **Fehrmann - 122**, Paul – 74. **Rev. Ryan Fehrmann is now 2nd VP.** Rev. Preston Paul is therefore 3rd VP.

Ratification of List Circuit Visitors: – Yes, **193**, No, 7. List of circuit visitors as presented was therefore ratified.

Circuit 1: Rev. Dr. Arleigh vonSeggern

Circuit 2: Rev. Aaron Gehrke

Circuit 3: Rev. Quinten Buechner

Circuit 4: Rev. John Trewyn

Circuit 5: Rev. Peter Kufahl

Circuit 6: Rev. Joel Danner

Circuit 7: Rev. David Karolus

Circuit 8: Rev. Thomas Hahn

Circuit 9: Rev. Jeffrey Kazmierski

Circuit 10: Rev. Ralph Shorey

Circuit 11¹

Circuit 12: Rev. Todd Jerabek

Circuit 13: Rev. Travis Kleinschmidt

Circuit 14: Rev. Steven Stoll

Circuit 15: Rev. Scott Johnson

Circuit 16: Rev. Daniel Schoessow

Circuit 17: Rev. David Ficken

Circuit 18: Rev. Jeffrey Smiles

Circuit 19: Rev. Larry Yaw

Ballot for District Secretary: **Rev. Don Engebretson - 151**, Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske – 49. **Rev. Don Engebretson was reelected.**

Ballot for Board of Directors: Ordained – Rev. Shawn Anderson - 10, Rev. Christian Burg - 4, Rev. John Deitz - 22, Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske - 31, Rev. Aaron Gehrke - 56, Rev. Steve Kline - 35, Rev. James Norton - 5, Rev. Matthew Ruesch - 23, Rev. Timothy Steckling - 15. ---- Those receiving fewer than 30 votes were removed.

Second Ballot: Fenske - 55, Gehrke - 103, Kline - 42. **Rev. Aaron Gehrke** received a majority and is elected.

¹ Since Rev. Ryan Fehrmann was elected as a vice president, he is no longer eligible to serve as circuit visitor. The district president will appoint a replacement.

7. Introduction of LCMS Missionary Deaconess Caitlin Ramirez of the Peru mission. Our district has been supporting Peruvian mission since 2013. Deaconess Caitlin addressed the assembly.
8. LCEF video was played featuring Rev. Bart Day, CEO of LCEF.
9. Commemoration of the Faithful Departed – 23 called workers of the district, who passed away between 2018 and 2022, were remembered in the liturgy for Close of the Day. Chaplain Ryan Fehrmann served as officiant.

SESSION #2
Monday, June 6, 2022

1. Opening Devotion – Matins: Rev. Donald V. Engebretson served as liturgist, and Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, president of Concordia Theological Seminary of Ft. Wayne, delivered the sermon.
2. Joan Berquist, president of the North Wisconsin District LWML brought greetings to the convention.
3. Jonathan Schultz, president of CPH, brought greetings to the convention.

First Ballot for Board of Directors: Commissioned – **Brian Betts – 113**, Dr. Christie Gillet – 75, Dr. Jeffrey Nielsen – 81, Deaconess Francis Szeto – 64, Sharon Voight - 45 – **Betts was elected to one of the seats.** Voight was dropped from next ballot.

Second Ballot for Board of Directors: Commissioned – Gillet – 66, Nielsen – 74, Szeto, 58 (No majority). Szeto was dropped from the next ballot.

Third Ballot for Board of Directors: Commissioned – Gillet – 92, **Nielsen, 111. Dr. Jeffrey Nielsen elected.**

4. Lay (vote for 6) First vote – Federwitz, 70 **Graff, 139** Heggemeier, 65 Johnson, 84 Krueger, 4** **Lindeman, 104 Mellem, 138** Post, 89 Schroeder, 58 **Timm, 148** Weikel, 58 Wirtala, 90 (** name withdrawn due to Fehrmann’s election to VP)
5. Schroeder and Weikel dropped.
6. Next ballot: Federwitz, 58 Heggemeier, 51 Johnson, 84 Post, 78 **Wirtala, 101**
7. Next ballot: Federwitz, 30 Johnson, 94 Post, 79 (Heggemeier removed)
8. Next ballot: Johnson, 99 **Post, 101** (Federwitz removed)
9. Those elected to the Board of Directors, Commissioned member: **Dr. Jeffrey Nielsen.**
10. Those elected to the Board of Directors, **Lay: Bryon Graff, Chrystal Lindeman, David Mellem, Craig Timm, Althea Wirtala and David Post.**
11. 2025 Nominations Committee, Commissioned - Kaiser, 97 Nielsen, **100 – Dr. Jeffrey Nielsen** elected.

2025 Nominations Committee, Ordained, Area A – Burg, 21 Fenske, 51 Ruesch, 75 Yaw, 54
Second Ballot (Burg dropped): Fenske, 51 **Ruesch, 105** Yaw, 48 - **Rev. Matthew Ruesch** elected.

2025 Nominations Committee, Lay Person, Area A: Weikel, 100 Federwitz, 93 – **Harry Weikel** elected.

12. The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of the LCMS, Addressed the Convention

- Video
- Report
- Break
- Q & A

13. Installation of President Lueck by Synodical President Matthew Harrison

14. Installation of Elected Officers by President Lueck: Vice Presidents, Circuit Visitors, Members of the Board of Directors, including the Secretary and Treasurer.

15. Broke for Lunch

Greetings from Special Guests

LWML – Mary Harrington, 1st VP

LLL – Neal Schalow, President of North Wisconsin Upper Mich. Dist. LLL.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN – Dr. William Cario, Interim Pres.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ST. PAUL – Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich

16. The Election Committee returned and continued with the remainder of the elections.

2025 Nominations Committee – Ordained Region B

Timothy Steckling (192) *Fehrmann removed due to previous election as vice president.

2025 Nominations Committee Lay Person – Area B

Graff, 110 Schneider, 80 – **Bryon Graff** elected.

2025 Nominations Committee Ordained – Area C

Andersen, 77 **Kazmierski, 115** – **Rev. Jeffrey Kazmierski** elected

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2025 Nominations Committee Layperson – Area C

Martin, 69 **Scharenbrock, 125** - **Mary Scharenbrock** elected.

2023 Synod Committee for Convention Nominations Professional Church Worker

Jerabek, 114 Kaiser, 82 – **Rev. Todd Jerabek** elected.

2023 Synod Convention NWD Advisory Delegates

First Ballot: Arntson, 38 Gosa, 66 Ferg, 78 (No majority, Arntson removed)

Second Ballot Gosa, 67 **Ferg, 123** – **Emily J. Ferg** elected.

17. Resolutions Committee Presented the Resolutions.

Res. 22-02 – “To Recognize and Thank the LCMS for the Strengthened and Expanded Soldiers of the Cross COVID-19 Response Initiative. Moved for adoption, seconded. *Question from the floor regarding where the money came from. Answer: LCEF, LCMS, Inc. (from generous donor). - **A. Yes, 200** B. No, 2. Motion passed.

Res. 22-04 – “To Expand Support for the North Wisconsin District Labor of Love.” Moved for adoption, seconded. *Point of order: Second is not necessary. Note: Technically resolution came through the BOD. **Yes, 184** No, 14. Motion passed.

Res. 22-06 – “To Initiate a Student Debt Assistance Program for LCMS Commissioned Minister – Teacher. Committee moved for adoption. **Yes, 183** No, 17 – Motion passed.

Res. 22-10 - Committee moved for adoption. **Yes, 183** No, 16

Res. 22-08 – “To Strengthen the Advisory Participation of Commissioned Workers at (District) Conventions.” **Alternate resolution 22-08a (same subject) presented in place of original resolution. Committee moved for adoption. Major change between the two is providing a “preliminary vote” (original) vs. “conduct a poll.” *Question from the floor: Are commissioned ministers eligible to be lay delegates? Answer: No. *Speaking to the motion: Wondering how this is working in IL where it has been adopted. Spoke concerning the publishing of this poll ahead of time. How? VP Wohlrabe addressed this from the floor. Described how this is done in IL. They use keypads and cast votes that are “advisory.” Usually advisory votes are the same as delegate votes. *Point of clarification: Advisory delegate “votes” do not count? *Speaking to the motion: Advisory delegates already have the opportunity to speak to the motion from the floor. Suggests “no” because with this resolution the reason for their vote is not given. *Speaking to the motion: Does not think an advisory vote unduly influences the eventual outcome. *Seeking additional information: How many besides Northern Illinois that use this? Southeastern just passed it. It is also coming before other conventions. *Speaking to the motion: Feels commissioned workers already have this right. -- Question called. Vote to cease debate: Yes, 160 No, 43 (2/3 is reached) – Vote taken on resolution: **Yes, 92 No, 110. Resolution is defeated.**

Resolution 22-12 – “To Call Upon the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Life Committee, to Offer Clearer Information Regarding Birth Control” – Moved for adoption. *Amendment offered: **Resolved, that in order to disseminate this crucial information to a wider audience than those who read the CTQ, the Sanctity of Human Life Committee is asked to publish the above article or one like it in our most widely lay read periodical, “The Lutheran Witness,” and be it finally....** [to take the place of lines 21-23 in original motion]. Also suggested a change in title: To Call Upon the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Life Committee, to Offer Clearer Information ~~Regarding birth control~~ *for couples Using the Pill for Birth Control as to when and how often the pill acts as an abortifacient.* *Two minutes given to speak to the revised motion. Concern expressed regarding the pill as an abortifacient. *Vote on substitute motion: **Yes, 106** No, 88. *Now speaking to the substitute motion. *Amendment offered to strike Sanctity of Human Life Committee in original resolution and replace with Sanctity of the LCMS Life Ministry. Chair treated this as a “friendly amendment.” No action taken. Discussion continued. *Wanted to recognize the process we have as a synod to go from circuit to district to synod. This resolution came from a circuit forum. *Asked if committee would consider a pamphlet that discusses other practices of birth control (e.g. abstinence). ***Resolution goes before the assembly for a vote: Yes, 101 No, 95. Resolution 22-12, as amended, is adopted.

Omnibus Resolution D – “To Peacefully Decline Overtures” – Moved for adoption. *Wish to amend by removing 22-09. Seconded. Note: Came from Circuit 6. Understood that it goes against Synodical constitution, but still wished for them to have a vote. Yes, to move out, 74 No to leave in, 125. Motion to bring 22-13 out of omnibus. Yes, 47 **No, 150**. 22-13 will not be discussed and will remain in the omnibus resolution. Moved to accept: **Yes, 161** No, 33

Members of the Resolutions Committee were recognized before the assembly.

18. Greetings from Camp Luther

19. Break

20. Convention Essayist: **The Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast** spoke on the convention theme “Labor of Love”.

21. Registration Committee Report: 212 voting delegates, 54 advisory, and 41 guests, making a final grand total of 307 participants at this convention.

22. **President Lueck** declared the 53rd Convention of the LCMS North Wisconsin District officially adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

23. The Itinerarium was led by convention chaplain Rev. Ryan Fehrmann as the closing of the convention.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Donald V. Engebretson
District Secretary