

1 The Eighteenth Convention of the Ohio District, LCMS
2 "Reclaiming the Mission . . . Through Nurture and Outreach"
3 June 8-10, 2006
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5
6 Session 1, Thursday Afternoon
7

8 **The Opening of Convention**

9 The Eighteenth Convention of the Ohio District, the Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod, was
10 called to order at 1:02 P.M. by President Ronald Bergen.
11

12 **Report of the Registration Committee**

13 President Bergen called on Rev. Robert Riggs, who chairs the Registration / Housing
14 Committee, to provide the first registration report. He stated that 94 pastors and 104 lay
15 delegates registered. The total number of delegates is 198. 21 advisory delegates and 30
16 guests also registered together with 12 staff members and 4 pages. A quorum has been
17 established for the 2006 Ohio District Convention.
18

19 **Opening Devotion**

20 Rev. Dr. Gilbert Duchow, the convention chaplain, led the devotion. The delegates first sang
21 enthusiastically *Shine, Jesus, Shine*. He used the theme "Reclaiming the Mission of Christ -
22 One Person at a Time." In our society today, life is gradually cheapened and devalued. What is
23 the value of one human life? Jesus proclaimed everyone has value in the sight of God. Jesus
24 had time for everyone. He calls us to reach out to others, one person at a time. This is the
25 ministry and mission to which Jesus has called us - to serve others one person at a time. With
26 whom does God want each of us to share Jesus? We have been challenged to be *Ablaze!*, and
27 the Holy Spirit in His fire enables us to be the lights of Christ. The devotion was concluded with
28 the singing of the hymn, *Hark! The Voice of Jesus Calling*.
29

30 **Welcome**

31 Rev. James Gau, Convention Chairman, welcomed the delegates of the Convention and
32 introduced the members of the General Convention Committee. The members greeted the
33 delegates with a clever song.
34

35 **Introductions**

36 President Bergen introduced the District staff members, including Mrs. Karen Dutton, Mr. Glenn
37 Richter, Mr. Gordon Stuckert, Rev. Robert Myers, Mrs. Lou Ann Limbird, Mrs. Pat Bilow, Mrs.
38 Bonnie Mann, Mr. David Bowers, and Rev. James Herndon. He also introduced Rev. Kevin
39 Wilson, the new Mission and Ministry Facilitator (MMF) for the Southern Region.
40

41 He also introduced Rev. Tom Eggold who serves on the LCMS World Missions and will speak to
42 the Convention tomorrow about the *Ablaze* program.
43

44 He introduced Mrs. Alberta Barnes, who will serve as the parliamentarian for the District
45 Convention.
46

47 **Convention Agenda**

48 **It was moved and seconded that the Ohio District in convention approve the Convention**
49 **Agenda, as presented. The motion carried.**
50

51 Ohio District - LCMS 2006 Convention Minutes

1 **Standing Rules**

2 President Bergen called attention to the Standing Rules printed on page iv of the *Convention*
3 *Workbook (CW)*. Mrs. Barnes, the District parliamentarian, explained the rules. **It was moved**
4 **and seconded that the Ohio District in convention adopt the Standing Rules, as**
5 **presented. The motion carried.**

6
7 **Introductions**

8 President Bergen introduced the pastors who have received their first call to the District.

9
10 Rev. Michael Geml, Rev. Patrick O’Dea, Rev. Joshua Schoon, Rev. Jeff Stone, Rev. Matthew
11 Williams, Rev. Edward England, Rev. Ralph Hough, Rev. Brett Cornelius, Rev. David
12 Goehmann, Rev. Michael Hagemann, Rev. Gary Richards, Rev. Daniel Sparling, Rev. Richard
13 Rudowske, Jr., Rev. David Griebel, and Rev. Donald Beaumont. The convention greeted them
14 with applause.

15
16 **New Congregations**

17 President Bergen introduced Living Truth Ministries on the north side of Marysville, OH with
18 Rev. Derrick Hurst as pastor. He also introduced the PALM Mission with Rev. Dan Sparling as
19 pastor.

20
21 **Report of the District President**

22 President Ronald Bergen gave his report to the District convention. He first welcomed the
23 delegates to the Ohio District Convention gathered under the theme, *Reclaiming the Mission*
24 *.....through Nurture and Outreach*. He then discussed the following points: 1. He first shared his
25 critical event *Ablaze!* story. A “critical event” is one of those moments when God puts a
26 Christian together with another person and presents him or her with an opportunity to share
27 their faith in Jesus Christ. He had an opportunity to share with a neighbor whose collie was ill. 2.
28 The delegates should first see the big picture of sharing the Good News by considering the
29 Mission Statement of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod: “In grateful response to God’s
30 grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of the
31 LCMS is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches,
32 communities, and the world.” 3. In order to carry out this mission, in the last three years the
33 Ohio District Board of Directors established three goals or Ends Policies. These three Mega-
34 Ends Policies are the over-arching guide or monitor by which the District staff functions and
35 manages. The District President also used the Mega-Ends Policies to hold the District staff
36 accountable. 4. The Board of Directors developed these Mega-Ends Policies: “The Ohio District,
37 LCMS, exists to fulfill the Great Commission in ways that are faithful to Scripture and the
38 Lutheran

39
40 Confessions as evidenced by:

- 41 • Healthy congregations functioning as Mission Outposts in their unique contexts;
42 • Healthy Professional Church Workers (PCW’s) effectively leading their unique ministries; and
43 • Congregational, district and synodical resources effectively linked with each other.”

44 5. The synodical Mission Statement and the three Ends Policies or Goals give direction to the
45 District for the present and the future and provide desired outcomes such as professional
46 church workers with a passion for the lost and a heart for missions, congregations with a heart
47 for outreach in partnership with their church workers, and congregations alive in worship, strong
48 in education, and vigorous in mission. Thus, the District Convention sets the direction, the Board

1 of Directors governs and holds the District President accountable, and the staff manages. 6.
2 The people of the Ohio District have been giving more than ever for the work of the Lord. When
3 the Sunday morning unrestricted offerings plus all monies given for missions, world relief,
4 human care agencies and higher education are all added together with all the deferred gifts,
5 charitable trusts, and bequests, sizeable amounts are given. District synodical giving is up and
6 growing. 7. The District is making progress on communications, but it still has a long, long ways
7 to go. New printed pages are on the horizon, and technological and internet forms of
8 communication are ready to be launched. He encouraged the new District President and the
9 Board of Directors to make district communications a priority. 8. In reflecting upon his service to
10 the Ohio District, President Bergen noted that his ministry was marked by *Transformation*, but
11 he noted that all the members of the District staff had a hand in this transformation process,
12 such as Rev. Richard Gahl who established the theme of *Reclaiming The Mission*, Rev. Robert
13 Myers who served church workers and their families, Ms. Karen Dutton who developed
14 transforming youth ministries, Rev. Jim Herndon who transformed the model of the Mission and
15 Ministry Facilitator (MMF), Mr. Gordon Stuckert who faithfully led the District's educational
16 services, schools and early childhood centers, Mrs. Bonnie Mann, the Chief Financial Officer,
17 who has transformed finance work into an art, and Mrs. Pat Bilow who has transformed planned
18 giving and assisted people in planned giving and charitable giving, together with Mr. Glenn
19 Richter who helped develop direct gifts especially for our schools. He also welcomed Rev. Kevin
20 Wilson who will serve as MMF in the Southern Region. He thanked the congregations for
21 supporting the remodeling of the District office, the Mission Support Center. 9. The Ohio District
22 in convention will consider some important issues including congregations going forward with
23 the *Ablaze!* movement, the crisis in our Lutheran schools,(four schools closed this past year),
24 and Project B.O.L.D., (the project which encourages people to give above their usual gifts to
25 current District ministries through "Adoption Agreements"). Delegates will also hear an update of
26 social ministry projects, including information on Katrina Relief; they will receive an update on
27 the new hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book* as well as a special presentation on demographics. 12.
28 The Convention also has the important task of electing a new District President who will lead the
29 District forward in mission. The new District President will be moving from transformational
30 mode to enhancing the missions and ministries. 13. The delegates should also be ready to
31 consider the revised *Code of Regulations* as mandated by the previous convention with
32 Resolution 4-04. The *Code of Regulations* serves as the District's By-laws and is over 40 years
33 old; it has never been revised substantially. The revised *Code of Regulations* is not an end in
34 itself but was written for the sake of mission and outreach. It will provide a clear focus on
35 missions, greater accountability, and increased involvement of lay people and professional
36 church workers. The *Code* also deals with District staffing, moving forward with the Mission and
37 Ministry Facilitator (MMF) model, and a focus on nurture and outreach. 14. He concluded his
38 report by encouraging the congregations, laypeople, and church workers to focus on mission
39 and outreach and not just on their survival. Congregations which are alive and healthy are those
40 which are bubbling over with mission enthusiasm, generous support for the missions of District
41 and Synod, and a fervor for additional mission projects which go beyond the traditional models.

42

43 **Floor Committee #5 - Elections Committee**

44 President Bergen called on Rev. Danny Koch, chairman of Committee 5 - Elections
45 Committee, to announce the slate of nominees for President. The five nominees are: Rev.
46 Charles Brandt, Rev. Terry Cripe, Rev. John C. Davidson, Rev. Phil Esala, and Rev. Kenton
47 Wendorf. The ballots were distributed to the delegates. President Bergen called on the chaplain
48 of the convention, Rev. Gilbert Duchow, to offer a prayer before the delegates cast their votes.
49 The ballots were collected and the first ballot for District President was declared closed.

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1 **Bible Study - Reclaiming the Mission**

2 Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer, President of Concordia University, Ann Arbor, MI, led the Bible study,
3 "Reclaiming the Mission." He discussed several points. 1. If we're going to reclaim the mission,
4 then we need to know what is our mission. Our mission is to "bring all things in heaven and on
5 earth together under one head, even Christ." 2. This creation has been blown apart by sin, but
6 God wants to see it brought back together. He described our roles as Christians: "We are
7 heralds of the King whose reign is in dispute." We don't have to make Christ pre-eminent; He
8 already is pre-eminent. We are called to proclaim Him. 3. Adam and Eve had an open
9 relationship with God, but they made "fig leaves" to keep themselves away from God and from
10 one another. Man is now in solitary confinement and has been in this state ever since. We use
11 words to alienate and separate from one another. 4. Jesus fulfilled the mission first in His
12 incarnation. He suffered the ultimate solitary confinement as He said, "My God, My God, why
13 have You forsaken Me?" He then rose from the dead and as He prepared to ascend, He spoke
14 integrating words, not separating. He also promised, "I will be with you always and fulfilled the
15 Mission. 5. In terms of our mission, we should be people of integrity and wholeness and
16 embrace the sins and pains of the world and speak words of wholeness. There are several
17 words that speak about integrity: *shalom*, which is not the absence of war, but total wholeness
18 within. Another statement is *living it* within our lives. We also *should stay at home* and stay with
19 our love for Christ. 6. As congregations we should be careful not to draw on the work and capital
20 of people who have gone before us, but see where God is calling us. 7. We should examine the
21 example of the church at Ephesus according to Revelation 2:4ff: "You have forsaken your first
22 love." We should ask ourselves, "What is our first love?" We should consider the 3 R's of
23 reclaiming the Mission; namely, Remember, Repent, and Relive - doing what we did at first and
24 returning to our first love. We need to war against anything that would cause disintegration and
25 hurt the Mission.

26
27 **Floor Committee #5 - Election Committee**

28 President Bergen called on Rev. Danny Koch, chairman of Committee 5 – Elections Committee,
29 to announce the results of the first ballot for District President. The results are as follows: 215
30 votes were cast: Rev. Terry Cripe, - 77; Rev. Dr. Jeff Stephens - 54; Rev. John C. Davidson -
31 39; Rev. Phil Esala - 20; Rev. Kenton Wendorf - 17; and Rev. Charles Brandt - 8. The names of
32 Rev. Kent Wendorf and Rev. Charles Brandt were removed, and the remaining four names
33 were placed on the next ballot. President Bergen called on the chaplain of the convention, Rev.
34 Dr. Gilbert Duchow, to offer a prayer. The ballots were collected and the second ballot for
35 District President was declared closed.

36
37 **Floor Committee #4 - District Ministries**

38 Rev. Peter Marcis, chairman of Committee 4 -District Ministries, introduced the resolutions.

39
40 Resolution 4-03A (Convention Workbook [CW] p. O-16), *Division of Southern II Circuit* was
41 introduced. President Bergen noted that the words, "effective September 1, 2006" should be
42 inserted at the end of the RESOLVED. By mutual consent of the convention, these words were
43 inserted. **It was moved and seconded that the Ohio District in convention approve**
44 **Resolution 4-03A. The motion carried.**

45
46 Resolution 4-01A (CW, p. O-14), "*To Approve the Revisions of the Code of Regulations and to*
47 *commend the Code of Regulations Task Force"* was introduced. Chairman Marcis noted several
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1 changes to the *Code*. The following words should be inserted as Article X, A. 3: "With the
2 exception of the District President and the three Vice Presidents, no more than two individuals
3 can be nominated from the same congregation for a position on the Board of Directors. (This
4 provision will take place with the nominations and elections at the 2009 Convention.)" Also, the
5 words "(revised 2000)" should be deleted at the end of VIII.C.2. He noted also that candidates
6 for regional Vice President will need 3 nominations to be placed on the ballot.

7
8 Delegates expressed their appreciation for the work of the *Task Force* and stated various
9 observations and expressed concerns. One delegate asked about the process of establishing
10 the salaries of the District staff - who determines their salaries? One delegate expressed a
11 concern that the District establish a committee to examine the *Code of Regulations* and make
12 recommendations for revisions; this process of revising should not occur after 40 years. One
13 delegate also spoke about Article II in the *Code*: the words, "the southerly boundary of the State
14 of Kentucky as an extension of the present boundary line between the State of Ohio and the
15 State of Indiana" indicates that the Ohio District would also include a part of western Kentucky,
16 so perhaps these words should be re-examined.

17
18 One delegate questioned if this Resolution could be referred back to the Floor Committee #4 to
19 examine the presented concerns. **It was moved and seconded that Resolution 4-01A be**
20 **referred to the Floor Committee #4 to review the concerns that were brought up and**
21 **bring it back later to the Convention. The motion was defeated.**

22
23 **It was moved and seconded that Ohio District in convention approve Resolution 4-01A.**
24 **The motion carried.**

25
26 The Convention then watched a video about the *Ablaze!* program.

27 28 **Floor Committee #5 - Election Committee**

29 President Bergen called on Rev. Danny Koch, chairman of Committee 5 - Elections
30 Committee, to announce the results of the second ballot for District President. The results are
31 as follows: 224 votes were cast: Rev. Terry Cripe, - 99; Rev. Jeff Stephens - 69; Rev. John C.
32 Davidson - 38; and Rev. Phil Esala - 18. The name of Rev. Phil Esala was removed and the
33 remaining three names were placed on the next ballot. President Bergan called on the chaplain
34 of the convention, Rev. Gilbert Duchow, to offer a prayer. The ballots were collected and the
35 third ballot for District President was declared closed.

36
37 The convention recessed for dinner. It reconvened at 7:00 P.M.

38 39 **Prayer**

40 The delegates sang the hymn, *Arise, O Church of God, Arise*. Rev. Robert Myers lead the
41 convention in prayer.

42 43 **Registration Committee**

44 President Bergen called on Rev. Robert Riggs, who chairs the Registration / Housing
45 Committee, to provide the second registration report. He stated that 113 pastors and 130 lay
46 delegates registered. The total number of delegates is 243. 25 advisory delegates and 34
47 guests also registered; 14 staff members and 4 pages registered.

1 **Floor Committee #5 - Election Committee**

2 President Bergen called on Rev. Danny Koch, chairman of Committee 5 – Elections Committee,
3 to announce the results of the third ballot for District President. The results are as follows: 222
4 votes were cast: Rev. Terry Cripe, - 114; Rev. Jeff Stephens - 80; Rev. John C. Davidson - 28.
5 Rev. Terry Cripe was declared to be President of the Ohio District.
6

7 **Floor Committee #5 - Elections Committee**

8 Rev. Danny Koch, Chairman of Floor Committee #5 - Elections Committee, announced the slate
9 of nominees for Vice-Presidents: Northwest -Rev. Robert Eble, Rev. Peter Marcis, Rev. Mike
10 Phillips, Rev. John Rutz, and Rev. James Strawn; Northeast - Rev. Dan Esala, Rev. Juan
11 Gongalez, Rev. Lloyd Gross, Rev. James Haugen, Rev. Dale Huelsman, Rev. Bertram Lewis,
12 Rev. David Luecke, Rev. Karl Rein, Rev. Eric Van Scyoc, Rev. Larry

13
14 Wesolik, and Rev. Dave Zachrich; Southern - Rev. Arthur Casci, Rev. John Davidson, Rev.
15 Danny Koch and Rev. Mike Volk. The chaplain of the convention, Rev. Gilbert Duchow, offered
16 a prayer. The ballots were collected and the first ballot for the District Vice-Presidents was
17 declared closed.
18

19 The slate of nominees for District Secretary was also announced: Rev. Richard Kurth and Rev.
20 Paul Burtzlaff. Rev. Duchow said a prayer and the first ballot for District Secretary was declared
21 closed.
22

23 Mr. Roger Behnfeldt, chairman of the *Partners in Outreach Task Force*, shared a critical event
24 and invited the delegates to attend the *Igniter* Events.
25

26 **Floor Committee #1 - Missions and Outreach**

27 Rev. Keith Johnson, Chairman of Floor Committee #1, Missions and Outreach, introduced the
28 resolutions:
29

30 Resolution 1-04 (Overture O-1-06), *To Set District Goals for Participation in Synodical Ablaze!*
31 was introduced. **It was moved and seconded that the Ohio District in convention approve**
32 **Resolution 1-04. The motion carried.**
33

34 Resolution 1-05A (Overture O-1-07), *To Encourage Congregations to Set a Critical Event Goal*,
35 was introduced. **It was moved and seconded that the Ohio District in convention approve**
36 **Resolution 1-05A. The motion carried.**
37

38 Resolution 1-07 (Overture O-1-10), *To Encourage Participation at District Igniter Events*, was
39 introduced. **It was moved and seconded that the Ohio District in convention approve**
40 **Resolution 1-07. The motion carried.**
41

42 **Mission to the City**

43 Rev. Tom Eggold, the Great Lakes Urban Ministry Regional Director for LCMS World Mission,
44 spoke to the delegates. The LCMS World Mission has selected five major urban areas in the
45 Great Lakes areas to grow in Christ's mission. Cleveland, OH is one of the cities that has been
46 selected. This will be a cooperative effort among seven districts to provide resources for growth
47 in mission.
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1 **Human Care Ministries**

2 Mrs. Lou Ann Limbird, District Coordinator of Human Care Ministries, spoke about the District's
3 efforts to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. She shared that at least 100 congregations were
4 involved, at least 150 individuals went to the hurricane area, and at least 30 trips were made.
5 Congregations gave over \$81,000 for the people of New Orleans. Congregations gave financial
6 gifts, Christmas gifts, and tuition assistance. Teams helped the members of St. Matthew
7 Lutheran Church and Holy Cross Lutheran Church in New Orleans, LA. They cleaned out the
8 churches and worked to help the churches to recover. Pastor Charles Brandt also shared about
9 the destruction from Hurricane Katrina and the efforts to help the people and do ministry. He
10 talked about the arrangements at Atonement, New Orleans, LA. He challenged the delegates to
11 consider going down to New Orleans. Eleanor and Glendon Rice from Baton Rouge, LA also
12 shared their efforts to minister to people in need in New Orleans. They spent six months in New
13 Orleans doing various tasks. They encouraged everyone to become involved in sharing Christ
14 as they helped others, even with the Mardi Gras beads!

15
16 Mrs. Limbird mentioned that skilled workers are needed to help re-build New Orleans. Also,
17 skilled people are needed to go to southeast Ohio and help victims of flooding. People can help
18 in other areas including specialized pastoral care, congregational health and parish nursing are
19 important for ministry and service. The Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to help people
20 in their time of need.

21
22 **Floor Committee #2 - Church At Large**

23 Rev. Douglas Riley, chairman of Floor Committee #2 - Church at Large, introduced Resolution
24 2-06A, *To Affirm the Work of the Board for Human Care Ministries and to Thank God for Their*
25 *Work Among Us. It was moved and seconded that the Ohio District in convention approve*
26 **Resolution 2-06A. The motion carried.**

27
28 **Mission Sharing**

29 Rev. Nathan Esala, a pastor with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ghana through Lutheran
30 Bible Translators, spoke to the delegates. He thanked the District for their prayers and support
31 of his ministry. He has been translating the Bible, but he also encouraged the people there to
32 become involved in mission.

33
34 The Rev. Duchow closed the Convention session with a reading of Psalm 146 and concluded
35 with prayer. The delegates sang *All Praise to Thee My God This Night* in a round.

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37 President Bergen then declared that the Convention was recessed until Friday morning.
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1 The Eighteenth Convention of the Ohio District, LCMS
2 "Reclaiming the Mission . . . Through Nurture and Outreach"
3 June 8-10, 2006
4

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6 Session 2, Friday Morning
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8 **Opening Prayer**

9 Rev. Jim Herndon, the MMF for the Northwest Region, led the devotion. Using Romans 13:8-10
10 as his text, he stated that military personnel and their families need support from their churches,
11 especially as they return home. The first step is for the church to understand what concerns and
12 problems the soldier and his family have. The congregation should see the soldier as another
13 distressed person who needs prayers and support; it should reach out to family members as
14 any family in crisis and help the deployed soldier with letters and care packages. The church
15 should welcome soldier's home publicly and listen to their concerns and don't condemn; it
16 should be aware of the signs of stress especially with re-integration. Rev. Herndon encouraged
17 the delegates to send notes to deployed soldiers. He led the convention in prayer for the
18 military.
19

20 **Nominations**

21 President Bergen called for nominations for members of the Board of Directors. Since no
22 candidates were named, President Bergen declared that the slate for nominations for members
23 of the Board of Directors was closed.
24

25 **Floor Committee #5 - Elections Committee**

26 Rev. Danny Koch, Chairman of Floor Committee #5, Elections Committee, announced the
27 results of the first ballot for the Vice-Presidents: Northwest with 219 total votes - Rev. Peter
28 Marcis - 134, Rev. James Strawn -32; Rev. John Rutz - 22; Rev. Robert Eble -16; Rev. Mike
29 Phillips -15. Northeast with 216 total votes - Rev. Dan Esala - 51; Rev. Dave Zachrich - 49; Rev.
30 Lloyd Gross - 30; Rev. David Luecke - 21; Rev. Karl Rein 14; Rev. Dale Huelsman - 13 Rev.
31 Bertram Lewis - 13; Rev. Juan Gonzalez - 12; Rev. Eric Van Scyoc - 6; Rev. James Haugen - 5;
32 Rev. Larry Wesolik - 2. Southern Region with 217 total votes: Rev. John Davidson - 159, Rev.
33 Mike Volk - 27, Rev. Danny Koch - 25, and Rev. Arthur Casci - 6. Rev. Peter Marcis was
34 declared to be the Vice-President for the Northwest Region and Rev. John Davidson was
35 declared to be the Vice-President for the Southern Region.
36

37 There will have to be a second ballot for Vice President for the Northeast Region and the names
38 of Rev. Esala, Rev. Zachrich, Rev. Gross, and Rev. Luecke were placed on the ballot. Rev.
39 Duchow led the delegates in prayer and the ballots for Vice-President
40 for the Northeast Region were declared closed.
41

42 Rev. Koch also announced the results for District Secretary: Rev. Richard Kurth - 115
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44 and Rev. Paul Burtzlaff - 105. Rev. Kurth was declared to be the Secretary of the Ohio District.
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46 President Bergen yielded the chair to First Vice President Terry Cripe.
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1 **Bible Study**

2 Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer led the Bible study. He touched upon several points: 1. He said that
3 we as Christians are called to lift high the cross of Christ to those who are retreating. 2. There
4 are Three R's for Reclaiming the Mission: Remember, Repent, and Relive. 3. When we
5 remember Biblically, we look at something in the past and see that it is alive, meaningful,
6 effective, powerful, personal for our lives today. We participate in God's events in a lively,
7 personal way today. 4. When we repent, we are involved in one of the most honest events as
8 we lay our sins before the Lord in Jesus Christ. 5. We see from the life of Paul about the
9 meaning of reliving. As he faced current events in his life, he could relive his transformation and
10 recognize how Christ changed his life. 6. The Word of God makes an impact on our lives so we
11 can remember. We need a centripetal force in the Word that brings us inward to God; we also
12 need a centrifugal force in the Word that propels us outward in mission so we overcome inertia,
13 that is laziness and inaction. 7. We need to repent for exercising our faith, but letting our people
14 rest; we need to help our people see their "pulpits" to share the Good News where they are. 8.
15 We as the Church should strategize on the time and energy that people devote to Christ-
16 centered activities and then see how we can grow in them. 9. We should "relive the excitement
17 of our first love" and find opportunities for service to the Lord. We are called to servant
18 leadership and to reclaim the Mission. 10. We should remember the words about Sir Robert
19 Shirley: "Whose singular praise it was to have done the best of things in the worst of times."
20

21 **Floor Committee #4, District Ministries**

22 Chairman Peter Marcis introduced Resolution 4-04, *To Thank God for the Faithful Service of*
23 *President Ronald L. Bergen*. The delegates all rose and sang *Now Thank We All Our God* in
24 tribute to President Ronald Bergen and his wife, Judy for their ten years of faithful service to the
25 Ohio District.
26

27 **Project BOLD**

28 Mrs. Pat Bilow, the Senior Gifts Planning Counselor and Mr. Glenn Richter, Ministry Gifts
29 Counselor spoke about Project BOLD (*Building on Legacies Developed*) It is a program to build
30 on inherited legacies to help future generations act BOLDLY in Christ. The Project supplies
31 quality information about the ministries through the circuits by planning local dinner/luncheon
32 events. The circuits plan a dinner meeting and the people attending see a video about District
33 missions. Then there is an estate planning presentation and questions and answers.
34 Participants can sign up for *Adoption Agreements* in different areas of ministries and services.
35 They can agree to give a one-time gift or spread out the payments for several years. So far six
36 events have occurred and hopefully all the circuits will sponsor such an event and six more
37 events will occur soon. According to the Feedback Forum, all participants have been pleased
38 with the events. Thirty-five of the people who attended an event have contacted the District and
39 told of their gifts for various ministries; so far \$51,543 has been given as direct gifts and
40 \$2,575,846 has been pledged as deferred gifts. Probably more people have given other gifts;
41 more is yet to come! We as thankful people can share our blessings for ministries in the future.
42 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!
43

44 **50th Anniversary of Active Ministry**

45 President Bergen noted that Rev. Horst Hoyer at Immanuel, Cleveland, OH and Rev. T. Richard
46 Marcis, interim pastor at Unity, Cleveland, OH are celebrating 50 years of ministry. The
47 delegates greeted both pastors with applause.
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1 **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans® / Stewardship**

2 Mr. Howard Chavalia spoke about Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®. Thrivent is a strong
3 financial institution and uses some of its earnings to help congregations. It has developed an
4 alliance with Habitat for Humanity. Over 500 houses will be built for needy people. Giving Plus
5 also helps missions. Thrivent Foundation also supports congregations with grants, including
6 Project BOLD. It encourages people to become involved in their communities with projects and
7 fund-raising events, including those hurt in Hurricane Katrina. In 2005 Thrivent provided benefits
8 of \$7.5 million for people in the state of Ohio. Howard also discussed the importance of
9 stewardship for the Church. Mr. Chavalia presented the stewardship banner to newly-elected
10 President Cripe to hang at the Mission Support Center.

11
12 **Floor Committee #3, Education, Youth, Stewardship and Finances.**

13 Rev. Michael Maciupa, chairman of Floor Committee #3, Education, Youth, Stewardship and
14 Finances, introduced the resolutions:

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16 Resolution 3-02, *Stewardship* was introduced. **It was moved and seconded that Ohio District
17 in convention approve Resolution 3-02. The motion carried.**

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19 Resolution 3-03, *Establishment of an Ohio District Lutheran Education Assistance Fund (LEAF)*
20 was introduced. **It was moved and seconded that Ohio District in convention approve
21 Resolution 3-03.**

22 An amendment was proposed: **It was moved and seconded that the words, “including a
23 congregational assessment of up to \$2.50 per member” be inserted at the end of line 45.
24 The amendment failed.**

25
26 An amendment was proposed: **It was moved and seconded that the words, “Ohio District in
27 convention ask that each District congregation consider a gift of up to \$2.50 per
28 member” be inserted at the end of line 43. The amendment failed.**

29
30 After further discussion, debate was ended, and the motion was voted upon:

31
32 **It was moved and seconded that Ohio District in convention approve Resolution 3-03.
33 The motion carried unanimously.**

34
35 Resolution 3-04, *To Decline Overture O-3-01* was proposed. **It was moved and seconded that
36 Ohio District in convention approve Resolution 3-04. The motion carried.**

37
38 **Committee #5 - Elections Committee**

39 Chairman Koch announced the results of the second ballot for Vice President for the Northeast
40 Region: Rev. Dave Zachrich - 93; Rev. Dan Esala - 86; Rev. Lloyd Gross - 40. The names of
41 Rev. Esala and Rev. Zachrich were placed on the ballot and the name of Rev. Gross was
42 dropped from the ballot. Rev. Duchow led the delegates in the “official” prayer and the third
43 ballot for Vice-President for the Northeast Region was declared closed.

44
45 Chairman Koch then presented the ballot for Ohio District Board of Directors. He noted that the
46 name of Brian Bickel in the list of Lay Person - Northwest should be removed and the name of
47 Henry Germann should be inserted in his place. He presented the names:

1 **Ordained Minister - Northeast Region**

2 Rev. Larry Wesolik and Rev. James Menke

4 **Ordained Minister - Northwest Region**

5 Rev. Don Luhning and Rev. Gerry Mohr

7 **Ordained Minister - Southern Region**

8 Rev. Dennis Dobbins and Rev. Robert Shonholz

10 **Lay Person - Southern Region**

11 Sandra Danneman, Jim Frye, Larry Beal, Elizabeth Hunter, Dr. Bernard
12 Erven, and Gailyn Thomsen

14 **Lay Person - Northwest Region**

15 W. I. "Joe" Strieter, Henry Germann, Roger Behnfeldt, Karl Kane, Marvin
16 Schumm, and Ron Bahler.

18 **Lay Person - Northeast Region**

19 Barbara Bray, Gary Likowski, William B. Fecht, Howard Chavalia, Mary Kiefer, and Tim
20 Snodgrass.

21
22 Rev. Duchow led the delegates in prayer and the ballots for members of the Board of Directors
23 were declared closed

25 **Campus Ministry Catalyst**

26 Rev. Gregory Fairow, Campus Ministry Catalyst, spoke to the convention. He stated that he was
27 a catalyst to encourage congregations to grow in campus ministry.

29 **Floor Committee #1 - Missions and Outreach**

30 Rev. Keith Johnson, Chairman of Floor Committee #1, Missions and Outreach, introduced the
31 resolutions:

32
33 Resolution 1-02, *To Encourage Congregational Ministry to College Students*
34 was introduced. **It was moved and seconded that Ohio District in convention approve**
35 **Resolution 1-02. The motion carried.**

36
37 Resolution 1-06 (Overture O-1-09), *To Reach Inactives*, was introduced. **It was moved and**
38 **seconded that Ohio District in convention approve Resolution 1-06. The motion carried.**

39
40 Resolution 1-09 (Floor Committee 1), *To Recognize and Give Thanks for the*
41 *Central Ohio Mission Association*, **It was moved and seconded that Ohio District in**
42 **convention approve Resolution 1-09.** It was noted that the name on line 24 should read Doug
43 Peters. **The motion carried.**

44
45 The convention then saw a video about the new Lutheran hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*.

1 **Floor Committee #2, Church at Large**

2 Chairman Doug Riley, chairman of Floor Committee #2, Church at Large, presented a
3 resolution:

4
5 Resolution 2-08 *To Decline Overture O-2-06* was introduced. **It was moved and seconded**
6 **that Ohio District in convention approve Resolution 1-02.**

7
8 **A Report from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, MI**

9 Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer, President of Concordia University, Ann Arbor first awarded the
10 *Christus Primus* award to President Ronald Bergen. He also shared information about the
11 University, especially the various programs at Concordia. The convention was pleased to see
12 how Concordia University, Ann Arbor, MI has been blessed by the
13 leadership of Dr. Ahlersmeyer.

14
15 **Prayer**

16 Lou Ann Limbird led the convention in prayer. She mentioned that skilled workers and
17 assistants are need to work with Carl Shefft, June 26-July 2. Additional groups are going July 8-
18 15, July 13-20, or make your own plans for the fall. Contact: llimbird14 6@yahoo.com

19
20 **Convention in Session**

21 President Bergen announced that the convention was in session again.

22
23 **Prayer**

24 Mrs. Karen Dutton led the convention in prayer.

25
26 **Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL)**

27 Mr. Loren Volkman, governor for the Ohio District LLL, greeted the delegates. He noted that the
28 LLL has approved a new five-year strategic plan. LLL will work with districts, and with
29 congregations to develop a mission plan for their communities. This plan will be in partnership
30 with the synodical *Ablaze* program to equip with research and demographics, develop
31 presentations, and use media for outreach.

32
33 **Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)**

34 Mrs. Elfrieda Spencer, president of the LWML for the Ohio District greeted the convention. She
35 mentioned how Mrs. Alberta Barnes, our wonderful parliamentarian, has served as Ohio District
36 LWML President for the Ohio and also as President for the International LWML. The LWML
37 strives to be in the Word and faithful in prayer; the members are linked in prayer every Monday
38 at noon. The LWML continues to support many missions and ministries in the District

39
40 **Introduction - Rev. Kevin Wilson**

41 President Bergen introduced Rev. Kevin Wilson, the new MMF for the Southern Region. He is
42 pleased for the opportunity to serve as MMF; he has the passion for the lost. He has conferred
43 with Rev. Eugene Bunkowske to see how to work with church planters and also become
44 involved in the culture. He started to become acclimated to the Southern Region by wearing a
45 Cincinnati Reds hat. The delegates warmly welcomed Rev. Wilson.

1 **Circuit Counselor Elections**

2 Circuits met in caucus and elected the following men to the position of circuit counselors.

3
4 NW 1 - Rev. Michael Phillips

5 NW 2 - Rev. James Strawn

6 NW 3 - Rev. John Rutz

7
8 NE 1 - Rev. Douglas Riley

9 NE 2 - Rev. Gary Lawson

10 NE 3 - Rev. David Luecke

11 NE 4 - Rev. Eric Van Scyoc

12 NE 5 - Rev. Paul Oberhaus

13 NE 6 - Rev. Robert Schuler

14 NE 7 - Rev. Mark Matzke

15
16 S 1 - Rev. Larry Rodencal

17 Columbus North - Rev. James Gau

18 Columbus South - Dave Reimann

19 S 3 - Rev. Mark Raddatz

20 S 4 - Rev. Kenneth Castor

21 S 5 - Rev. John Mueller

22
23 **It was moved and seconded that the Ohio District in convention ratify the election of the**
24 **circuit counselors. The motion carried.**

25
26 **Associate Pastors' Caucus**

27 The associate pastors met in caucus and elected the following people to advisory delegates for
28 the 2007 synodical Convention: Rev. Milton Berner and Rev. Donald Weiss, delegates; Rev.
29 John Greig and Rev. Doug Riley will serve as alternates.

30
31 **Committee #5 - Elections Committee**

32 Chairman Koch announced the results of the second ballot for Vice President for the Northeast
33 Region: Rev. Dan Esala - 76; Rev. Dave Zachrich - 76; Rev. Lloyd Gross - 45; Rev. David
34 Luecke - 28. The name of Rev. Luecke was removed from the ballot. Rev. Duchow led the
35 delegates in prayer and the ballots for Vice-President for the Northeast Region were declared
36 closed.

37
38 The people elected to the Ohio District Board of Directors are listed in **boldface**.

39
40 **Ordained Minister - Northeast Region**

41 Rev. Larry Wesolik - 90; **Rev. James Menke** - 113

42
43 **Ordained Minister - Northwest Region**

44 Rev. Don Luhring - 87; **Rev. Gerry Mohr** -112

45
46 **Ordained Minister - Southern Region**

47 Rev. Dennis Dobbins - 97; **Rev. Robert Shonholz** - 104

1 **Lay Person - Southern Region**

2 Sandra Danneman 103; Jim Frye -107; **Larry Beal** - 125; Elizabeth Hunter -78; Dr. Bernard
3 Erven - 63; and Gailyn Thomsen - 60

4
5 **Lay Person - Northwest Region**

6 **W. I. "Joe" Strieter** - 114; Henry Germann -42; **Roger Behnfeldt** - 125; Karl Kane -81; Marvin
7 Schumm -76, and Ron Bahler -100.

8
9 **Lay Person - Northeast Region**

10 **Barbara Bray** - 123; Gary Likowski -105; William B. Fecht -77; **Howard Chavalia** -115; Mary
11 Kiefer - 69; Tim Snodgrass - 115.

12
13 **Commssioned Minister at Large**

14 Ken Boerger - 95; Mike Mayo -109; Karen Boerger -74; Christine Spohn - 90.

15
16 The ballot was declared closed.

17
18 **Floor Committee #2, Church at Large**

19 Chairman Doug Riley, chairman of Floor Committee #2, Church at Large, presented a resolution:

20
21 Resolution 2-01 *To Thank God for the Ministry of The Rev. Dr. Robert Myers* was introduced. **It**
22 **was moved and seconded that Ohio District in convention approve Resolution 2-01. The**
23 **delegates approved Resolution 2-01 by rising and greeting Rev. Myers with applause.**

24
25 **New Congregation.**

26 President Bergen recognized a new congregation, St. Paul / Pilgrim Lutheran Church in
27 Lakewood, OH. The Convention greeted the delegates with applause.

28
29 **Floor Committee #1, Mission and Outreach.**

30
31 Resolution 1-01 (CW, p. O-1-02 and O-1-04), *To Encourage Ministry Development in New*
32 *Areas* was introduced. **It was moved and seconded that Ohio District in convention**
33 **approve Resolution 1-01. The motion carried.**

34
35 Resolution 1-03 (Overture O-10-05), *To Call Upon Each Congregation to be a Mission Outpost*
36 was introduced. **It was moved and seconded that Ohio District in convention approve**
37 **Resolution 1-03. The motion carried.**

38
39 Resolution 1-08 (Floor Committee 1), *To Encourage Ablaze! By Telling Our Stories* was
40 introduced. **It was moved and seconded that Ohio District in convention approve**
41 **Resolution 1-08. The motion carried.**

42
43 Resolution 1-10 (Overture O-1-01), *To Correct the Theology of Ablaze!* was introduced. **It was**
44 **moved and seconded that Ohio District in convention approve Resolution 1-10. The**
45 **motion carried.**

46
47 A substitute motion was proposed: **It was moved and seconded that Overture O-1-01 be**
48 **used as the substitute resolution for Resolution 1-10. The motion failed.**

1 **It was moved and seconded that Ohio District in convention approve Resolution 1-10.**
2 **The motion carried.**

3
4 Resolution 1-11 (Overture O-1-08), *To Reach the Unchurched*, was introduced. **It was moved**
5 **and seconded that Ohio District in convention approve Resolution 1-11. The motion**
6 **carried.**

7 **Support Staff**

8
9 President Bergen introduced the members of the District support staff. The Convention thanked
10 them for their work with a round of rousing applause.

11 **Faithful Worker**

12
13 President Bergen introduced Mrs. Kathy Albrecht who has served in the District office as a
14 District support staff member for 22 years, especially as lead secretary. She has done a
15 wonderful job and will retire in July, 2006. The delegates greeted her with applause. Members of
16 the Stewardship Services Committee, Mission Services Committee, and *Outreach Task Force*
17 all thanked her for her faithful work.

18 **Floor Committee #4, District Ministries**

19
20 Resolution 4-05 *To Thank God for the Faithful Service of Rev. Richard Gahl to the Church and*
21 *the Ohio District*, was introduced. The Ohio District in convention approved this Resolution by
22 rising and singing the Common Doxology. By common consent Rev. Gahl will also be honored
23 for his work for the LCMS, especially with his work on the synodical *Stewardship Workbook*.
24 The District Secretary will send Rev. Gahl a card of recognition from the convention with a copy
25 of Resolution 4-05.

26 **Oaksford Award**

27
28 Mr. Larry Beal, chairman of the Mission Services Committee announced that Rev. Gerald
29 Heimlich is the recipient of the Oaksford Award for his Mission leadership, service, and witness.
30 The delegated greeted Rev. Heimlich with applause.

31 **Presentation: Outreach and Demographics**

32
33 Mr. Jeff Miller and Ms. Angelina Iturrian, representatives of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund
34 (LCEF), spoke to the Convention about the importance of demographics. They noted several
35 points: 1. Churches should be involved in demographics in their community to ascertain who
36 lives in the area, to discover what are the needs and characteristics of these people, to decide
37 how the congregation will reach these people with the Gospel, to determine how to equip the
38 congregation for ministry, to challenge the status quo. 2. A demographic study provides
39 indications of a community including age of the people, family types, and ethnicity. 3. LCEF
40 uses *Claritas*, a national vendor of demographic data and services. *Claritas* uses city, county,
41 state and government records, census data, housing information, and any other public
42 information and it continually compiles and updates the information. 4. *Claritas* uses *Prizm_{NE}*
43 Segmentation which divides the United States population into social and lifestyle groups. The
44 population is then divided into 66 different demographic segments based on how they behave
45 from a socio-demographic perspective. With segmentation that is constructed on ZIP + 4, it can
46 focus on as few as five to ten households. 5. *Prizm_{NE}* uses four "urbanicity" categories: **Urban**,
47 (mega-cities, 85-99 population density), **Second City**, (cities and big towns, 40-85 population
48 density), **Suburban**, (40-90 population density), and **Town & Country** (exurbs and towns,
49
50

1 under 40 population density), with fourteen social groups altogether. 6. *Prizm_{NE}* also includes
2 three “Lifestage” categories: **Younger Years**, (ages under 45, singles and couples), **Family**
3 **Life**, (Middle-age 25-54, families with children), and **Mature Years**, (ages over 45, singles and
4 couples), with 11 distinctive lifestyle groups. *Prizm_{NE}* then segments every neighborhood into
5 sixty-six distinct lifestyle types. 7. With the help of demographics, the congregation can better
6 understand the mission field which God has gathered, better prepare the members to be
7 missionaries and reach out with a meaningful message, and clarify the meaning of the mission
8 field today. 8. In 2002 Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) and Lutheran Hour Ministries
9 (LHM) partnered on an 8-page survey. They combined resources to better understand the
10 religious beliefs and practices of U.S. households. The survey collected information on felt-
11 needs and concerns, religious affiliation and practice, and experiences and opinions of the
12 Christian Church. This survey was coordinated through *Claritas* with *Prizm_{NE}*. 9. The survey
13 yielded a national unchurched rate of 36.7% or roughly 110 million unchurched people in 2006.
14 10. Congregations can use this information to see what lifestyle groups, age groups, education
15 groups, and household income groups are not attending worship and gear their outreach efforts
16 in that direction. 11. According to this survey, the “unchurched” have certain beliefs: 54%
17 believe in some form of afterlife, 43% believe they can earn their way into Heaven, 36% believe
18 all faiths/ religions are the same, 12% believe in Hell/ Jesus as the one true Savior. On the other
19 hand, 75% of the “churched” believe that they should actively live their faith, while 25% believe
20 they should share the Good News with someone they know. 12. According to the survey, 34.7%
21 are “unchurched” in Ohio; 59% (6.6 million people) would like to hear good things about a
22 church in their area and 35% (3.9 million people) are waiting for a personal invitation. 13.
23 Congregations should contact Mr. David Bowers at the District office for more information about
24 a demographic study in their area.

25

26 **Pastoral Anniversary**

27 The Convention recognized Rev. Carl Zahrte for 51 years of service in the ministry.

28

29 **Congregation Welcome**

30 The convention welcomed the delegates of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH
31 which became a member of the Ohio District since the last convention.

32

33 **Committee #5 - Elections Committee**

34 Chairman Koch announced the results of the third ballot for Vice President for the Northeast
35 Region: Rev. Dave Zachrich - 110; Rev. Dan Esala - 94. Rev. Zachrich was declared the Vice-
36 President of the Northeast Region.

37

38 It is now necessary to vote for the ranking for the three Vice Presidents of the Praesidium: Rev.
39 Marcis, Rev. Davidson, and Rev. Zachrich. Rev. Duchow said a prayer and the balloting was
40 declared closed.

41

42 Chairman Koch also announced the results of the balloting for members of the Board of
43 Directors:

44

45

46 **Lay Persons - Southern Region**

47 **Sandra Danneman** -119; **Jim Frye** -101; Elizabeth Hunter - 68; and Dr. Bernard Erven - 59.

48

49

50

51

1 **Lay Persons - Northwest Region**

2 Marvin Schumm - 68; Karl Kane - 56; and Ron Bahler - 52. A run-off is necessary.

4 **Lay Persons - Northeast Region**

5 Gary Likowski - 82; William B. Fecht - 51; and Mary Kiefer - 50. A run-off is necessary.

7 **Commssioned Ministers at Large**

8 **Christine Spohn** - 112; **Ken Boerger** - 110; and Mike Mayo - 100.

10 He also announced the results of the balloting for the Nominating Committee for the 2009
11 District Convention:

13 **Pastor - Northeast Region**

14 **Rev. Paul Hoffman** - 113; Rev. Vern Bok - 76

16 **Pastor - Northwest Region**

17 **Rev. Dale Kern** - 110; Rev. Peter Marcis - 78

19 **Pastor - Southern Region**

20 **Rev. Mike Volk** - 98; Rev. Michael Maciupa - 77;

22 **Layperson - Northeast Region**

23 Ms. Barbara Knight - 68; Mr. Brian Upton - 58; Kenneth Welch - 49 A run-off is necessary.

25 **Layperson - Northwest Region**

26 **Vicki Roth** - 91; Larry Lee - 83.

28 **Layperson - Southern Region**

29 **Steve Elsea** - 97; Randall Jackson - 78.

31 **Commissioned Minister - Northeast Region**

32 **Brenda Lietz** - 99; Cathie Lucarelli - 57.

34 **Commissioned Minister - Northwest Region**

36 **Mary Rettig** - 90; Pat Kramer - 73.

38 **Commissioned Minister - Southern Region**

39 **Karen Boerger** - 104; Robert Reisenbichler - 61

41 The delegates completed the ballots for the run-offs. The ballot was declared closed.

43 President Bergen declared that this session of the Ohio District Convention was closed.

45 **Convention Communion Service**

46 The Convention communion service was held at St. John, Dublin. At the service President
47 Bergen installed Rev. Kevin Wilson, the Mission and Ministry Facilitator for the Southern
48 Region. President-Elect Terry Cripe and Rev. Jack Davidson, Vice President for the Southern

1 Region, also took part in the installation. Synodical President, Dr. Gerald Kieschnick served as
2 preacher. Using 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 as his text, he stated that our lives would be simpler if we
3 would live for God and not for ourselves. However, when we recognize our frailties and
4 faithlessness, we fall in repentance to the Lord Who loves us. As God's forgiven people, we
5 should now live for God which means that we look at people with His view. God calls us to be
6 His ambassadors of reconciliation; that is, we are the Ruler's mouthpiece. With God's help, we
7 can pray for "divine appointments" to share with others what is in our hearts.
8

9 The following church workers were memorialized in the service:

10 + Rev. Lyle Halvorson	+ Rev. Robert G. Schoenheider
11 + Rev. Richard Jesse	+ Rev. Kenneth Theile
12 + Rev. Edgar Roschke	+ Mr. Clarence "Mike" Moses
13 + Rev. William A. Ross	+ Mr. Richard Wagie

14
15 Rev. David Reimann then concluded the service with an outstanding rendition of
16 Widor's "Toccata" from the "Fifth Symphony".
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1 The Eighteenth Convention of the Ohio District, LCMS
2 "Reclaiming the Mission . . . Through Nurture and Outreach"
3 June 8-10, 2006
4

5
6 Session 3, Saturday Morning
7

8 **Opening Prayer**

9 Rev. Kevin Wilson, the new MMF for the Southern Region, led the convention in prayer.
10

11 **President Kieschnick's Report**

12 President Gerald Kieschnick, President of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, greeted the
13 convention and gave his report. He mentioned several points: 1. The Holy Spirit is alive and well
14 in the LCMS, though sometimes the growth is slow. We have one mission, one message, and
15 one people; we are called to be ambassadors of Christ. 3. Many people don't know the truth
16 about Jesus Christ and hardly anyone knows anything about the Missouri Synod. 4. We should
17 remember the *Ablaze* goals: the LCMS will share the Good News globally with 100 million
18 unreached and uncommitted people by 2017; the LCMS will begin 2,000 new mission
19 congregations; and each member of the Synod will share the Good News when the Spirit
20 provides the opportunity. 5. 25 Districts have already made their goals to share Christ with 31.7
21 million people and to start 1,300 congregations. *Ablaze* has partnered with the LLL and the
22 LWML to share the Good News with 25 million people around the world by 2010. 6. Delegates
23 can go to the synodical web site, lcms.org, and click on *Ablaze* to see the number of people who
24 have been contacted. 7. If someone is concerned about this emphasis on numbers and doesn't
25 want to count the number of people contacted, they don't need to count, but they should still talk
26 about Christ! 8. So far 50 congregations have set goals over 5 years to raise total worship
27 attendance by over 25,000; 46 congregations have set goals to increase the number of adult
28 confirmands by over 25,000. 9. The Concordia University system has a total enrollment of over
29 16,000 students. The universities have experienced a gradual decline in the number of students
30 wanting to be church workers, so we should seek ways to encourage young people to consider
31 a career in church work. Present day Church workers are very instrumental to encourage young
32 people to become full-time church workers The two seminaries presently have an enrollment of
33 1,200 men. In the next ten years, one half of the total number of pastors will retire, so more
34 seminary students are needed. We must pray for the harvest! 10. The Synod will have its
35 differences, but study and prayer will help us. We must be in a spirit of prayer and of repentance
36 to have harmony with one another. 11. The LCMS Disaster Response is a great outreach effort.
37 Our people have donated \$10 million for hurricane relief and they donated \$5 million for tsunami
38 victims. Unchurched people do take notice about the Church being involved in disasters, so we
39 have some opportunities to share Christ. 12. The Synod is concerned about church workers
40 who are experiencing indebtedness especially with educational loans. A task force has been
41 formed to help the financial needs of church workers. 13. When church workers and
42 congregations have disputes, they should not attack each other, but use the synodical process
43 for dispute resolution. 14. Two task forces have been formed to help the Synod, namely, the
44 Funding the Mission Task Force and the Synodical Structure and Governance Task Force. 15.
45 Congregations must be *Ablaze* with the love of Christ Our churches as communities of faith will
46 be filled with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit so that the people of Synod will be
47 ablaze, attracting more people to the sweetness of God, drawing people to the light of God as a
48 "city on the hill." We need to ask ourselves, What more can I do to speak the Good news and
49 share His power?"
50

1 **Questions and Answers for the President.**

2
3 President Kieschnick then answered questions from the delegates: 1. When will the matter
4 concerning the interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Concordia Publishing House (CPH) be
5 resolved? Answer (A): The CEO is appointed by CPH's Board of Directors and needs mutual
6 concurrence by the President of Synod. So far the "ball is in the court" at CPH. He noted that
7 Rev. Phil Esala has been recently elected to serve on the Board at CPH. 2. Why doesn't the
8 Synod call Dr. Gene Edward Veith to be Director of Periodicals? A: The Board for
9 Communication Services selects the Director and then sends the name of their recommended
10 candidate to the Council of Presidents (COP). At this time none of the candidates have received
11 a majority vote from the Board. 3. What about the demographics for older people and younger
12 people will a lower standard of living? A: Older people now are a huge mission field, especially
13 with the "baby boomer" generation growing older. Outreach to the younger generation is a real
14 challenge, especially since only one half of this age group who were baptized ever become
15 confirmed and only one half of this group who are confirmed remain as church members after
16 five years. Thus, the Church needs to strategize to reach out to both age groups. 4. Is there any
17 truth to the rumors of the possibility of the formation of a new non-geographical district for
18 "orthodox" Lutherans? A: He hasn't heard any rumors about the formation of a new district, but
19 a district cannot be formed without the authorization of the Synod in convention. If the Synod
20 approves of a new district, he will go along with the decision. 5. Will LCMS ever have women
21 pastors? A: He doesn't see this happening. People ask him about the propriety of voting on
22 doctrinal matters. The reason that Synod votes on doctrinal matters is to determine agreement
23 in what we understand about what the Bible says concerning the matter. If there is no
24 agreement, all parties have to return to Scripture and confess their sins, read the Word, and try
25 to get the matter resolved. In regard to the role of women in the church, Resolution 3-08A states
26 that women can participate in offices of the Church except except the pastoral ministry, so long
27 as they don't conflict with the authority of the pastor or allow women to have supervision over
28 the pastor. He has formed a task force to develop guidelines about dealing with changes in the
29 congregational by-laws as well as with the practical issues. There are definitely two sides to this
30 issue but we all need to respect one another as decisions are made. Each congregation is free to
31 develop their own by-laws and guidelines about the role of women in the congregation, but a
32 congregation is not free to teach publicly that the Synod's position on the role of women is
33 wrong. If individual doesn't agree, they should work in the Synod concerning the issue or else
34 they should go in a different direction. 6. What does he find satisfying in his work? A: He
35 especially appreciate district conventions, even though he has to rush in many directions to
36 attend the various conventions. He appreciates meeting all the pastors and getting a pulse of
37 what is going on in the Church. He also finds his relationship with the COP as very satisfying as
38 well as meeting the leaders of Lutheran churches in foreign fields. 7. What should a
39 congregation do in the case of a pastor who is unfaithful in the performance of his duties and
40 who has lost respect of the congregation? A. In such a case of a problem with a pastor, the
41 leaders should first meet with the pastor face to face and see if they can resolve the situation. If
42 they cannot resolve the issue, they should consult the process for Ecclesiastical Supervision
43 and seek the counsel of the District President, circuit counselors, and District reconciler.
44 Sometimes the pastor doesn't have a "good fit" with the congregation, so they should work on a
45 resolution. In extreme cases, the congregation may rescind the pastor's call, but this should not
46 be done capriciously. 8. Are there plans for the LCMS to consider its position on dialogue with
47
48
49
50

1 Roman Catholic Church (RCC)? A: Actually, the RCC and LCMS agree in certain areas such as
2 liturgics, males can only be pastors, and the sanctity of life but there are some deep concerns in
3 regard to justification. A joint document (JDJC) has been issued concerning justification, but it
4 doesn't really address the major issues. The LCMS as a church body has something to offer to
5 the Church in regard to doctrine including the distinctions of Law and Gospel, Sin and Grace,
6 and Justification & Sanctification.

7 **Rite of Installation**

8
9 Pres. Keschnick installed Rev. Terry Cripe as President of the Ohio District. He gave
10 encouragement to President Cripe and spoke of the joy of the Office of President. He will pray
11 for President Cripe and encouraged the District pastors and congregations to pray for him.

12 **Committee #5 - Elections Committee**

13
14 Chairman Koch announced the results of the ranking for the Vice Presidents: Rev. Jack
15 Davidson is the First Vice President; Rev. Peter Marcis is the Second Vice President, and Rev.
16 Dave Zachrich is the Third Vice President.

17
18 Rev. Koch also announced the results of the election run-offs:

19 **Lay Person - Northwest Region**

20
21 Marvin Schumm - 84 and Karl Kane - 84 still a run-off

22 **Lay Person - Northeast Region**

23
24 Gary Likowski - 104; and William B. Fecht - 71

25 **Layperson - Northeast Region**

26
27 Mr. Brian Upton - 95 and Ms. Barbara Knight - 68

28 **Synodical Nominating Committee (2007 Synodical Convention)**

29
30 total votes: 173

31
32 Mr. Robert Becker - 65; Mr. William Engelmann - 63; Stephen Krone - 45. Mr. Robert Becker
33 will serve as the delegate and Mr. Engelman will serve as the alternate.

34 **Lutheran Service Builder**

35
36 The delegates saw a Powerpoint® about *The Lutheran Service Builder* which is software for the
37 new *Lutheran Service Book*.

38 **Committee #2, Church at Large**

39
40 Chairman Doug Riley presented the resolutions

41
42 Resolution 2-10, *To Thank God for People's Response to Hurricane Katrina Relief*, was
43 introduced. **The Ohio District in convention approved Resolution 2-10 with applause and**
44 **with prayer.**

45
46 Resolution 2-02, *To Decline to Memorialize Synod in Convention to Overrule CCM Opinions 02-*
47 *2296 and 02-2309*, was introduced. . **It was moved and seconded that Ohio District in**
48 **convention approve Resolution 2-02.**

1 An amendment was proposed: **It was moved and seconded to substitute the words of**
2 **Resolution 2-02 with the words from Overture 2-01. The motion failed.**

3
4 **It was moved and seconded that Ohio District in convention approve Resolution 2-02.**
5 **The motion carried.**

6
7 Resolution 2-03, *To Decline to Memorialize Synod to Require the CTCR to Rewrite Guidelines*
8 *for Participation in Civic Events*, was introduced. **It was moved and seconded that Ohio**
9 **District in convention approve Resolution 2-03. The motion carried.**

10
11 Resolution 2-04, *To Decline to Memorialize Synod to Change its Mind about 2004 Res. 8-01A*,
12 was introduced. **It was moved and seconded that Ohio District in convention approve**
13 **Resolution 2-04. The motion carried.**

14
15 Resolution 2-05, *To Decline Memorial to Synod to Rescind 2004 Res. 3-08A*, was introduced. **It**
16 **was moved and seconded that Ohio District in convention approve Resolution 2-05. The**
17 **motion carried.**

18
19 Resolution 2-06 ,*To Affirm the Work of the Board for Human Care Ministries and to Thank God*
20 *for Their Work among Us*, was introduced. **It was moved and seconded that Ohio District in**
21 **convention approve Resolution 2-05. The motion carried.**

22
23 Resolution 2-07 *To Decline Overture O-2-05*, was introduced. **It was moved and seconded**
24 **that Ohio District in convention approve Resolution 2-05.**

25
26 **An amendment was proposed: It was moved and seconded to substitute the words of**
27 **Resolution 2-07 with the words from Overture 2-05. The motion failed.**

28
29 **It was moved and seconded that Ohio District in convention approve Resolution 2-07.**
30 **The motion carried. Yes - 117; No - 42.**

31
32 Resolution 2-09, *To Request Continued Study and Clarification by the CTCR*, was introduced. **It**
33 **was moved and seconded that the Ohio District in convention approve Resolution 2-09.**
34 **The motion carried.**

35 36 **Registration Committee**

37 Rev. James Gau noted the final totals of the registration. He stated that 119 pastors and 131 lay
38 delegates had registered. The total number of delegates is 250. In addition 26 advisory
39 delegates, 38 guests, 14 staff, and 4 pages had registered, leaving a grand total of 332 people
40 attending the Convention.

41 42 **Greetings from President Terry Cripe**

43 President Cripe addressed the Convention and mentioned several points. 1. Years ago he was
44 planning not to run for Vice President, but he relied on the Lord for direction and decided to run.

1 He will continue to trust in the Lord now. 2. He is humbled by this honor and the trust the District
2 is placing on him to be President. 3. As he begins his presidency he especially wants to
3 remember the examples of three men: Rev. Walter Zeile of the New Jersey District, Rev. David
4 Buegler, past president of the Ohio District and President Ronald Bergen. 4. The Ohio District
5 needs to move forward, using God's tools and gifts. As a District we do together what we cannot
6 do individually. 5. We as members of the Ohio District have some important questions to
7 consider: Can an effective war be waged against sin and the devil when the "generals" don't
8 meet to confer? Can we be effective vessels of God's grace when we don't grant forgiveness to
9 each other? Can we go to the offended person and extend our hands to one and resolve the
10 matter in a God-pleasing way? 5. Problems are great, but God's power is greater. 5. He
11 requests that all pastors and congregations pray for him and the Praesidium.

12 **Committee #3, Education, Youth, Stewardship, and Finances**

13 President Bergen then introduced Resolution 3-01, *Thanksgiving for Faithful Workers. The Ohio*
14 **District in convention approved Resolution 3-01 by rising and applauding the workers.**

15
16
17 The District Secretary will write Resolution 3-04 which will offer thanks to certain groups of
18 people who were very much involved in the District Convention, including the deaf interpreters,
19 the audio-video technicians, the pages, the local Convention Committee, Rev. David Reimann
20 and Rev. John Greig and the members of St. John, Dublin, OH, the parliamentarian, the District
21 Secretary, and the Convention Chaplain. By mutual consent the Ohio District in convention
22 approved this upcoming resolution.

23 **Installations**

24 President Cripe first installed the Praesidium, Rev. Jack Davidson, First Vice President, Rev.
25 Peter Marcis, Second Vice President, and Rev. Dave Zachrich, Third Vice President.

26
27
28 President Cripe then installed the newly-elected Board of Directors, the District Secretary, the
29 Circuit Counselors, the members of the Nominating Committee for 2009 District Convention,
30 and the members of the Synodical Nominating Committee.

31 **Presidential Farewell.**

32 President Bergen remembered his ten years of service as District President and offered thanks
33 to the members of the District staff and certain individuals as well as pastors and congregations
34 of the Ohio District.
35

36 **Committee #5, Elections Committee**

37 Chairman Koch announced the results of the final run-off for Board of Director:

38 **Lay Person - Northwest Region**

39 **Karl Kane - 90 and Marvin Schumm - 77**

40
41
42 The delegates thanked Chairman Koch and his committee for their diligent work.

43 **Close of the Ohio District Convention**

44 President Bergen then announced that The Eighteenth Convention of the Ohio District, LCMS
45 was closed at 11:57 A.M. in the name of the Father, and of the Son† and of the Holy Spirit.
46
47
48
49
50