

1 The Nineteenth Convention of the Ohio District, LCMS

2 **"One Message: Many Contexts"**

3 Embassy Suite, Dublin, Ohio

4 June 18-20, 2009

5
6 **SESSION 1, THURSDAY AFTERNOON**

7
8 **THE OPENING OF CONVENTION**

9 The Nineteenth Convention of the Ohio District, the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, was
10 called to order at 1:04 P.M. by President Terry Cripe.

11
12 **WELCOME**

13 Rev. James Gau, Convention Chairman, welcomed the delegates of the Convention and
14 introduced the members of the Convention Committee. The Convention thanked the members
15 of the Committee.

16
17 **REPORT OF THE REGISTRATION COMMITTEE**

18 President Cripe called on the Rev. Paul Schlueter, who chairs the Registration/Housing
19 Committee, to provide the first registration report. He stated the total number of delegates is
20 194. There are 20 advisory delegates, 22 guests, together with 11 staff members and 12
21 pages. President Cripe declared that we have a quorum.

22
23 **OPENING DEVOTION**

24 The Rev. James Oester, the convention chaplain, led the devotion. He began with the Order of
25 Responsive Prayer One from Lutheran Service Book. The Scripture Lesson was Matthew 9:35-
26 38. Chaplain Oester used the theme "One Message: Many Contexts." The devotion was
27 concluded with the singing of the hymn, "*Lift High the Cross.*"

28
29 **CONVENTION AGENDA**

30 President Cripe presented the Convention Agenda. **It was moved and seconded that the**
31 **Ohio District in convention approve the Convention Agenda, as presented. The motion**
32 **carried.**

33
34 **STANDING RULES**

35 President Cripe called attention to the Standing Rules of the Convention Workbook . Mrs. Joy
36 Myers, the District parliamentarian, suggested an added rule: "*Minutes of the first two meetings*
37 *of the convention session shall be approved by the assembly the following morning. Minutes of*
38 *the third meeting shall be approved by a Reading Committee to be composed of three members*
39 *appointed by the President.*" **It was moved and seconded that the Ohio District in**
40 **convention adopt the Standing Rules, as amended with the suggestion from our**
41 **parliamentarian. The motion carried.**

42
43 **RECEPTION OF NEW CONGREGATIONS**

44 President Cripe introduced Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Ashtabula, Ohio and Ebenezer
45 Evangelical Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio, as new congregations in the Ohio District since
46 our last convention.

47
48 **INTRODUCTIONS**

49 President Cripe introduced the pastors and commissioned ministers who have received their
50 first call to the District. The following signed the Constitution of Synod: Kenneth Welsh,
51 Deanna Cheadle, Jeff Patterson, Carissa Schlichtmann, Donald Coulter, Curtis May, Brian
52 Stark, Ryan Honeycutt, Mark Croucher, Peeter Pirn, Dave Timm. The convention greeted them
53 with applause.

1 **CONSTITUTION REVISION PROCEDURE**

2 President Cripe called on District Secretary, the Rev. Richard E. Kurth, to explain the process
3 that is to be followed by congregations who desire to revised their Constitutions and/or By laws.
4 The procedure is the following: (1) Two copies of the documents with revisions are to be
5 forwarded to the Office of the District President; (2) District Constitution Committee will review
6 and either approve or suggest further revisions; (3) Approved documents will received a letter
7 from the Chair of the District Constitution Committee, a copy of which will be sent to the Office
8 of the President; (4) The District President will present those recommendations to the Ohio
9 District Board of Directors for approval; (5) Upon approved action of the Board of Directors, the
10 congregation will be informed in writing by the Ohio District Secretary.

11
12 **ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

13 President Cripe introduced the Rev. Michael Phillips, Chairman of the Elections Committee.
14 Pastor Phillips explained the procedure for elections which will be followed throughout all
15 elections. He then presented the slate for District President. He asked for additions to the
16 slate. The Rev. Dr. Jack Davidson moved that the assembly elect Terry Cripe as President by
17 acclamation. After some discussion about the appropriateness of this motion, the assembly did
18 elect the Rev. Terry Cripe as President of the Ohio District by acclamation.

19
20 **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT**

21 In addition to the President’s report printed in the Convention workbook, President Cripe added
22 to the following comments in an additional oral presentation:

23
24 Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

25 In addition to the written report from the President which you have in your convention
26 materials, I want to supplement with this oral report and expand on some of the topics found
27 in the written report.

28 When we read the Acts sermons which Paul delivers in the synagogues, we feel at
29 home. Jesus is presented as the Christ, whose death and resurrection were foretold by the
30 Scriptures. We hear clear enunciations of why he came to this world. Paul says, “We tell you
31 the good news: What God promised our fathers he has fulfilled for us, their children by
32 raising up Jesus...Therefore I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is
33 proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could
34 not be justified from by the law of Moses.” Were Paul to be graded by a Lutheran seminary
35 professor, is there any doubt but that he would have received an A?

36 Now consider the message Paul delivered in Athens to those at the Areopagus on Mars
37 Hill: “Men of Athens ... since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine
38 being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by man's design and skill. In the past
39 God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent.
40 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed.
41 He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.” We are told that this
42 message sounded foreign to their ears. I would submit that it sounds just as foreign to ours.
43 Where is the language we are accustomed to hearing? Nothing about his death on the cross
44 or that it happened in accordance with the Scriptures. No speaking about forgiveness or
45 justification. Jesus is not mentioned by name or by title. Paul only refers to “the *man* God has
46 appointed to *judge* the world,” not redeem it. What grade would our seminary professor
47 assign to such a message? A number of commentaries find fault with Paul's message. It is
48 thought to be inadequate. Some even quote Paul's letter to the Corinthians as proof that
49 Paul himself was dissatisfied with his approach. They believe he was reflecting upon the few
50 numbers who were converted in Athens, when he said of his work in Corinth, “We were
51 determined to know nothing among you but Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” Yet Luke is
52 clear about why the Athenians were in confusion or debate. He says it was because “Paul
53 was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.”

54 Our convention theme is One Message: Many Contexts. These two sermons of Paul
55 illustrate that point quite well. For surely the form the message takes when the audience
56 understands the Jewish Scriptures and shares the hope of a Messiah will be very different

1 from the form it takes when speaking to those unfamiliar with the Scriptures or the worldview
2 they present. The point of common ground from which the speaker speaks in each case
3 widely diverges from the other. We in the Ohio District have been blessed with many
4 contexts. Some of these we highlight through our Bible studies today and tomorrow. But
5 even more exist – Appalachia, African immigrants, deaf, Muslim – to name just four others.
6 Nevertheless, we are called to remain faithful to this one message for all: “God was in Christ,
7 reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.” “He died for all
8 that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who died and was raised.”
9 Our challenge is to present Christ in ways that take into account those differing contexts.
10 Living in a post-Church, Biblically illiterate culture means that more often than not, our first
11 interactions will increasingly more closely resemble Paul’s Areopagus speech than they will
12 his synagogue sermons.

13 As stated in my written report, I have set before our congregations a goal that we plant
14 60 new ministries within the boundaries of the Ohio District, 20 of them in West Virginia. I
15 leave the time line in God’s hands. For by and large, in this model we are dependent upon
16 you, our congregations, to take the lead and venture forward. Collectively as a District we will
17 make financial assistance available to encourage and support such congregational planting
18 initiatives. We stand ready to help determine where in your area it might be appropriate to
19 plant a satellite or new ministry. And in some cases the Board of Directors will call
20 missionaries-at-large or assist to raise up appropriate candidates for the Specific Ministry
21 Program, especially in West Virginia. But by and large, you must be the eyes and ears. You
22 must begin to think outside your own immediate locale. Some will find it easy to venture to a
23 nearby community and start a satellite congregation. Others may hold back because they
24 fear that starting such a thing will only hurt their own congregation’s membership. But our
25 Lord spoke about such an attitude when he reminded the disciples, “Unless a grain of wheat
26 falls into the ground and dies, it cannot bear any fruit.” We must let Christ transform the
27 attitude that says, “I’m only concerned about my church and only so I can be buried from it.”

28 The need for new starts is critical. First, I speak demographically. Your District staff has
29 identified between 60 and 90 congregations of our District that are “at risk” congregations.
30 That means that within 5-10 years they very well may no longer exist, or may have to alter
31 how Word and Sacrament ministry is carried out. My fear is that such congregations will
32 remain in denial of this reality until they have exhausted their last dollar, buried their next-to-
33 the-last member, and then plead for a bail out. The current economic situation has not
34 created crises in congregations as much as it has revealed inherent weaknesses already
35 present. The current economic downturn may prove to be the tipping point from which a
36 congregation does not recover. But if congregations awakened themselves from denial and
37 began to work collaboratively with neighboring congregations before they became so weak,
38 they might have a chance at a future. Demographically speaking, our nation is paying a price
39 for having families of only one or two children. When a nation does not reproduce at a rate
40 that replaces itself, it is in danger of losing its culture. We are near or at that point now.
41 Europe is in worse condition. Now let me apply that to our Synod. Thirty years ago our
42 national youth gatherings could draw from a pool of around 200,000 youth. Today that pool is
43 near 94,000. If the average age of our members is 62, we have a shrinking window of
44 opportunity in which to multiply and grow by taking the Gospel to a younger generation. The
45 older the members of a congregation become, the less energy they have to take strong
46 positions of leadership in their congregations. The more averse they are to reach beyond a
47 ministry that only cares for them. If we find ourselves unable to reproduce, we will lose that
48 which is our heritage and it will pass out of existence. I do not share the belief of those who
49 belittle this concern by saying that the important thing is to be a Christian first and Lutheran
50 second. To think and speak that way is to say “I’m a human first and a male or female
51 second.” No, you interact with the world as either a male or female human. We are what we
52 are spiritually as well. Our worldview is that of Lutheran Christians. We pass everything
53 through the lens of God’s justification of the sinner by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. If
54 this is a faith that has served us well, why shouldn’t it serve others well, too? If it is a faith
55 that gives hope to more than 15 million Africans, why should it not do the same for more
56 Americans, too? If one of the longstanding objectives of our Synod has been to conserve the
57 true doctrine that is our Lutheran heritage, how will we do that if we do not pass it on to

1 future generations that include more than our natural born children (and by the way, we
2 haven't done such a great job of passing that on to them, either)? On the other hand, if we
3 are perceived as simply a branch of American Evangelicalism because we act like that, we
4 really have no reason to exist, for the true Evangelicals do Evangelicalism better than we
5 can, just as true Roman Catholics and Orthodox live their identities better than we can as
6 wanna-be Roman Catholics or Orthodox. As we Lutherans have excelled in ministries of
7 human compassion, so pray that God would allow us to excel at bringing the One message
8 to the many contexts we find in the Ohio District.

9 Secondly, and more importantly, I speak spiritually. An elementary science question
10 asks, "Which cools a glass of water faster, one in which 4 ice cubes are dropped, or one in
11 which the equivalent amount of crushed ice has been placed?" The answer, of course, is the
12 one in which crushed ice has been placed because there is more surface volume of crushed
13 ice coming in contact with the water and absorbing its heat. Sixty more congregations can
14 provide just that many more interfaces with a world that is spiritually starving. If 170
15 congregations held four events each year in which the members interacted with people in
16 their respective communities, that would total 680 events. Another sixty mission outposts
17 would add an additional 240 opportunities to influence lives for eternity with the Gospel. But if
18 the number of at-risk congregations continues to grow, we have that fewer number of
19 potential interactions with the world. If you attended one of the Fan into Flame workshops, or
20 read my monthly blogs, these comments from our first Synodical President are not
21 surprising. President CFW Walther said,

22 "For if the entire Christian church is the real mission society which God Himself
23 has established, then all those who ignore mission work and do not care anything
24 for it certainly are not true and living members of the church, that is, not true
25 Christians. They break the oath of allegiance which they have made to Christ at
26 their baptism. They want to carry the keys of the kingdom of heaven in their
27 hands and yet do not want to open heaven to those who are still outside. They
28 want to be spiritual priests and yet not do the work of a priest. They want to be
29 God's wheat, and still are not fruitful grains of wheat. They want to have faith,
30 yet have no love. They have no compassion in their hearts for the distress of the
31 heathen, and thereby show that even though they are baptized, they still have a
32 heathenish heart and that they themselves are in darkness and the shadow of
33 death. They are brothers of Cain and say with him: "Am I my brother's
34 keeper?"

35 Does such an attitude characterize you and your congregation? Has love grown cold for
36 those without faith in Christ? Let us not evaluate by the number of converts made, but by the
37 number of opportunities to plant the seed of the Gospel that our congregations have taken.
38 Families are not beating down our doors to join the church as they did in previous
39 generations. The fields are not white unto harvest here. They must be resown with Gospel
40 seed. Scripture says, "Those who sow sparingly shall reap sparingly." I don't think we can
41 sow much more sparingly than by starting only one or two mission outposts per year. Do we
42 have it in us as a District to do more? Do we have it within us to trust the Gospel word to do
43 its work by taking it to our towns, farms, suburbs, and cities? Do we trust the Gospel to do its
44 work among immigrants, the deaf, and among Muslims?

45 To be faithful and fruitful means we rely upon the Holy Spirit's power. The Spirit calls by
46 the Gospel, the Spirit enlightens us with gifts, the Spirit gathers people into the Church. The
47 Spirit sanctifies the Church on a daily basis, and part of the sanctified life has to do with
48 one's daily witness. We say that the Spirit works through means. The Spirit works through
49 the Law to bring repentance. The Spirit works through the Gospel word of forgiveness to
50 bring spiritual peace of heart. The Spirit delivers these through people, putting them in
51 situations where they can speak a witness about Christ, where they can fruitfully exercise
52 themselves in the faith that works by love. As the Spirit led the apostles into a wide variety of
53 circumstances where they could witness to Jesus Christ, let that same Spirit lead you into
54 your community, prepared to give the reason for the hope that lies within you.

55 The key word is "prepared." Are we prepared? Michael J. Valch, author of "Crisis in
56 America's Churches", postulates that there is an overemphasis on personal experience
57 rather than Bible education in most churches. Valch goes on to say that pastors have

1 adopted a devotional, life-lesson approach in preaching to the exclusion of serious Bible
2 exposition. Valch also adds that solid theological teaching has been ditched in the education
3 of the youth in favor of using texts as “springboards for devotional reflection...” The results
4 have not been promising. A Gallup survey shows that fewer than half of Americans can name
5 the first book of the Bible (Genesis), only one-third know who delivered the Sermon on the
6 Mount (many named Billy Graham, not Jesus), and one quarter do not know what is
7 celebrated on Easter. A Barna Research poll showed 12 percent of Christians think Noah's
8 wife was Joan of Arc. Eighty percent of born-again Christians believe it is the Bible that says
9 "God helps them that help themselves." High school youth were tested with these results:
10 Eighty percent could not place Moses, Adam, David, Solomon, Abraham in chronological
11 order.

- 12 • Only 20 percent knew that Paul's travels are recorded in the book of Acts.
- 13 • Only 33 percent could locate the Sermon on the Mount in the New Testament.
- 14 • Eighty percent could not locate the Lord's Prayer.

15 Is it not clear why attention to doctrine must be given if we are going to be in mission? To
16 paraphrase Paul, “How can they speak of whom they have neither read nor studied?” How
17 long will you have Jesus in your heart if you are not in study of the Word, since the Holy
18 Spirit works through the Word? Pastors, rededicate yourselves to solid teaching of theology.
19 It is a pathetic study that only asks students how they feel about various aspects of the text.
20 But it is an equally pathetic study that only asks the student questions of fact. Theology takes
21 the student beyond the facts to show by them what kind of God has called us into fellowship
22 with Himself, how He acts, and then lets that produce within the heart the appropriate
23 emotional response.

24 Friends, if we really are interested in letting God use us to reach others, let's rededicate
25 our congregations to the serious study of God's Word. Let us bathe ourselves in the
26 promises of the Gospel for only there is the power and motivation to look beyond ourselves
27 to hear the cries of a dying world. We have His promise that through such study we will be
28 equipped for every good work and that includes the planting of 60 new ministries within our
29 District.

30 31 **CONVENTION BIBLE STUDY**

32 The Rev. Michael Saylor, Redeemer, Convoy, Ohio, presented his message beginning in Acts
33 9:32. His focus was on Rural Ministry and its challenges. He left us with three points to
34 consider: [1] being well versed in Bible doctrine and express it clearly, [2] a love of being
35 among the people; [3] longevity in a ministry.

36 37 **CONVENTION BREAK**

38 Provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

39 40 **FLOOR COMMITTEE**

41 President Cripe introduced the Rev. Dennis Mann, Chairman of the Floor Committee. Pastor
42 Mann introduced **Resolution 04-09** (See *Resolutions Tab*) to divide the Ohio District into Five
43 Vice Presidential Regions. It was noted that in line 149 ‘**Second**’ should be changed to
44 ‘**Fourth**’; ‘**2012**’ changed to ‘**next**’ in line 171; and ‘**west**’ changed to ‘**east**’ in line 219. Several
45 amendments were entertained by the assembly.

46
47 One motion suggested changing Article XII, line 213, from “**Lakewood south**” to “**the**
48 **Cuyahoga County line**.” This motion was **withdrawn** after explanation. Another motion was
49 made to change line 160 from “**one lay**” to “**two lay**.” This motion **failed**. Another motion was
50 made to amend by addition the following after line 162 “**two additional lay members selected**
51 **by the Board of Directors**.” This motion also **failed**.

52 A motion to **Call the Question was offered, seconded and passed**. The main motion
53 corrected as noted above was then presented to the assembly. The **main motion was passed**.

54 55 **ELECTION COMMITTEE**

56 President Cripe called forward the Rev. Michael Phillips, chairman of Election Committee. He

1 reviewed the Code of Regulations pertaining to nominations and elections. Since the
2 convention had approved the division of the Ohio District into five regions, Pastor Phillips
3 introduced the ballot for **Vice Presidents for Five Regions**. After presenting the slate, the floor
4 was open for nominations. There being none, the slate was officially closed. Prayer for the
5 election was offered by the Convention Chaplain. Ballots were distributed and after they were
6 collected the election was declared closed.

7 8 **C.P.H. AWARD**

9 President Cripe introduced Mr. Bruce Kintz, President of C.P.H. to present to Prince of Peace
10 Lutheran Church in Oregon, Ohio this award: a \$500 certificate to begin a church library. This
11 congregation was selected because of their outstanding outreach efforts.

12 13 **“APPLE OF HIS EYE”**

14 President Cripe introduced Steve Cohen, Executive Director of “Apple of His Eye,” who spoke to
15 us about his Jewish roots and how he came to faith. He stressed the importance of evangelism
16 among Jewish people.

17 18 **MINISTERIAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

19 President Cripe called the Rev. Gilbert Duchow forward to speak about the work of ministry
20 health and growth. He called attention to a questionnaire outside the convention hall and asked
21 church workers to fill these out. A drawing will be made for a free retreat later this year.

22 23 **INSTRUCTIONS FOR DINNER**

24 There are six lines set up for dinner in the Atrium for the evening meal. Convention Chaplain
25 offered prayer for the evening meal.

26 27 **DECLARATION OF THE CONVENTION IN RECESS**

28 President Cripe declared the convention in recess until 7:00 p.m.

29 30 **SESSION 2, THURSDAY EVENING**

31 32 **OPENING OF THE SESSION**

33 President Cripe opened the Second session at 7:02 p.m. and invited our Chaplain to come
34 forward for an opening prayer.

35 36 **REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

37 Chairman of the Elections Committee reported on the election of Vice Presidents as follows:

38 **NORTHWEST:** Rev. **Peter Marcis**-157; Rev. Lance O'Donnell-55 [Total votes 212]

39 **NORTH CENTRAL:** Rev. **Dave Zachrich**-202 [Total votes 202]

40 **NORTHEAST:** Rev. **Gerald Matzke**-202 [Total votes 202]

41 **SOUTHEAST:** Rev. Dr. **John Davidson**-165; Rev. James Gau-47 [Total votes 212]

42 **SOUTHWEST:** Rev. **Arthur Casci**-114; Rev. Steve Schave-93 [Total votes 207]

43 Names in **BOLD** were declared elected.

44 45 **CONVENTION BIBLE STUDY**

46 President Cripe called the Rev. Everett Green from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Cincinnati to
47 bring our second Bible Study. His context of ministry is the urban poor.

48 49 **REPORT OF THE SYNODICAL PRESIDENT**

50 The Rev. Dean Nadasdy introduced the report from Synodical President Gerald Kieschnick to
51 the convention which came via a video presentation. He also fielded questions.

52 53 **DECLARATION OF THE CONVENTION IN RECESS**

54 After a closing prayer by our Chaplain, President Cripe declared the convention in recess until
55 8:00 a.m. Friday morning.

1 name of the Rev. James Gau. After the ballots were collected, the election was declared
2 closed.

3 4 **“FAN INTO FLAME” REPORT**

5 President Cripe shared with the convention an update on the **“Fan into Flame”** emphasis in the
6 Ohio District. He described it as the fund raising effort to support the **“Ablaze”** efforts of the
7 LCMS. He described the mission goal of 60 new ministries in the Ohio, 20 of which we desire to
8 be in West Virginia. Much progress has been made toward the goal of raising \$4,000,000.00 in
9 the Ohio District. He expressed his hope that the campaign could be ended by Advent of 2009.
10 Currently Ohio District has received \$515,000 from 22 gifts. Many congregations have adopted
11 their suggested goal of 2% of their annual giving to be raised over a 5 year period.

12 President Cripe introduced The Rev. Kevin Wilson, Mission and Ministry Facilitator for the
13 southern region of our District with the Scripture *“The lines have fallen for me in pleasant
14 places.”* Psalm 116:6. Pastor Wilson presented the vision plan for the mission plants in West
15 Virginia. He spoke of the Appalachian Mission Partnership to help people do mission work in
16 this area.

17 18 **FLOOR COMMITTEE PRESENTATION**

19 The Rev. Dennis Mann, Chairman of the Floor Committee introduced his committee: Dennis
20 Mann, Mike Tankersley, Dwaine Albers and John Rutz. Resolutions 5, 6, 7, and 8 were
21 distributed.

22 Chairman Mann proceeded to read and moved adoption of **Resolution 5** (See *Resolutions
23 Tab*). Discussion followed. After discussion **the motion was adopted.**

24 Chairman Mann then read and moved adoption of **Resolution 6** (See *Resolutions Tab*).
25 Some discussion followed. After discussion, the question being called, there was a division of
26 the house with a standing vote. With 103 in favor, 58 opposed; **the motion was adopted.**

27 Chairman Mann proceeded to read and moved adoption of **Resolution 7** (See *Resolutions
28 Tab*). Discussion followed, after which the Question was called. **The motion failed**
29 Because Resolution 7 failed, the committee withdrew **Resolution 8** (See *Resolutions Tab*).

30
31 President Cripe shared information about the worship service to be held this evening at St. John
32 Lutheran Church, Dublin and directions to that site. He called Gordon Stuckert and Karen
33 Dutton forward to speak about the **ALL CHURCH WORKER’S FALL CONFERENCE**.

34
35 The business of the day being completed, President Cripe called our convention chaplain
36 forward to lead us in a prayer before our evening meal. After the singing of the “Doxology”
37 President Cripe declared the convention into recess until Saturday morning.

38 39 **CONVENTION COMMUNION SERVICE**

40 The Convention communion service was held at St. John, Dublin. The Rev. Dean Nadasy was
41 the preacher and he also installed the Rev. Terry Cripe as President of the Ohio District.
42 President Cripe then installed the five Vice Presidents. The service also contained a memorial
43 service for those church workers who died in the past triennium.

44 45 **SESSION FIVE – SATURDAY MORNING**

46 47 **CALL TO ORDER**

48 President Cripe called the Fifth session of the Nineteenth Convention of the Ohio District, the
49 Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod to order at 8:50 a.m. and asked our Chaplain to come forward
50 for a brief devotional thought and prayer. His text was Psalm 116.

51 52 **ELECTION COMMITTEE**

53 The Rev. Michael Phillips from the election committee presented a correction to a previous
54 report. Those who will be serving on the 2012 Ohio District Convention Nominating Committee
55 are: the Rev. Kenneth Castor; the Rev. Michael Phillips; the Rev. George Zoebli; Christopher

1 Black; Karen Boerger; Raymond Hertz; Jean Moffitt; Chris Graves; David Sellke; Ronald Roth.

2

3 **Report on Board of Directors Elections**

4 The following report on the election for the Ohio District Board of Directors was given to the
5 convention in preparation for the next ballot.

| | |
|--|---|
| 6 Northwest – Ordained Minister: | Rev. Lee Genter [61 votes – 34%] 7 Rev. Lance O’Donnell [88 votes – 48%] 8 Rev. William Stottlemeyer [32 votes – 18%] |
| 9 Northeast Ordained Minister: | Rev. Michael Hageman [80 votes – 46%] 10 Rev. Paul Hoffman [95 votes – 54%] |
| 11 North Central Ordained Minister: | Rev. Hosea Ekong [75 votes – 41%] 12 Rev. David Timm [50 votes – 27%] 13 Rev. Larry Wesolik [60 – 32%] |
| 14 Southeast Ordained Minister: | Rev. John Hohe [102 votes – 59%] 15 Rev. John Hood [72 votes – 41%] |
| 16 Southwest Ordained Minister: | Rev. Dennis Dobbins [115 votes – 64%] 17 Rev. Scott Tessin [64 votes – 36%] |
| 18 Northwest Lay Person: | Carl Rausch [64 votes – 36%] 19 Roger Schlade [39 votes – 22%] 20 W.I. “Joe” Strieter [75 votes – 42%] |
| 21 Northeast Lay Person: | Fred Kressierer [118 votes – 72%] 22 Lue Skilsky [45 votes – 28%] |
| 23 North Central Lay Person: | Howard Chavalialia [43 votes – 25%] 24 Joseph Kress [31 votes – 18%] 25 Gary Likowski [68 votes – 39%] 26 Phil Oberhaus [31 votes – 18%] |
| 27 Southeast Lay Person: | Larry Beal [62 votes – 36%] 28 Sandra Danneman [55 votes – 32%] 29 Charles Elsea [27 votes – 16%] 30 Terry Worst [27 votes – 16%] |
| 31 Southwest Lay Person: | Frank Farr [38 votes – 22%] 32 Jim Fyre [88 votes – 50%] 33 Gailyn Thomsen [50 votes – 28%] |
| 34 Commission Ministers at Large: | Kenneth Boerger [95 votes – 32%] 35 Dale Lehrke [67 votes – 22%] 36 Gil Schepman [46 votes – 15%] 37 Christine Spohn [90 votes – 30%] |

38 Names in **Bold** are elected.

39

40 Mr. Howard Chavalialia stood to a point of order and asked to have his name removed from the
41 ballot for North Central Lay Person. Pastor Phillips indicated that although his name is on the
42 ballot, all should strike his name.

43 Ballots were distributed to the delegates. After balloting was complete, President Cripe
44 declared the election closed.

45 At the conclusion of the balloting, Pastor Phillips thanked his committee members: Rev. Dan
46 Esala, Rev. Denis Wittenberger, Tonya Grether, Blain Hagins, Roger Diederich, Steve Wendell.
47 The convention added their approval with a round of applause. He also thanked members of
48 the District Staff, Deb Klusak, Bonnie Mann and Lisa Janik, for their assistance with the work of
49 his committee.

50

51 **CONVENTION BIBLE STUDY**

52 The Rev. Mark Croucher of Emmaus Journey Lutheran Church, a mission plant in Lorain
53 County, gave a presentation on the challenges to successful outreach in a suburban context.
54 He pointed the assembly to texts from 2 Timothy. He ended with a video from “You Tube.”

55

1 **FLOOR COMMITTEE**

2 The Rev. Dennis Mann for the Floor Committee asked for **Resolution 1** (*See Resolutions Tab*)
3 to be passed out. He read the resolution with one correction.

4 An amendment was offered to include “*and any nominee who has accepted their nomination to*
5 *the District Board of Directors*” The voting on this amendment yielded 68 in favor of the
6 amendment and 63 against the amendment. **The amendment carried.**

7 Discussion on Resolution 1 continued and the convention **approved Resolution 1.**

8

9 **ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

10 The Election Committee made their final report to the convention. The results of the run-off
11 election for the Board of Directors results in these elections:

- 12 **Northwest – Ordained Minister:** Rev. Lee Genter [69 votes – 44%]
13 **Rev. Lance O’Donnell** [88 votes – 56%]
- 14 **North Central Ordained Minister:** **Rev. Hosea Ekong** [79 votes – 54%]
15 Rev. Larry Wesolik [67 – 46%]
- 16 **Northwest Lay Person:** Carl Rausch [64 votes – 44%]
17 **W.I. “Joe” Strieter** [80 votes – 46%]
- 18 **North Central Lay Person:** Howard Chavalia [Name withdrawn]
19 **Gary Likowski** [123 votes – 90%]
- 20 **Southeast Lay Person:** Larry Beal [67 votes – 48%]
21 **Sandra Danneman** [72 votes – 52%]
- 22 **Southwest Lay Person:** **Jim Fyre** [93 votes – 64%]
23 Gailyn Thomsen [52 votes – 36%]
- 24 **Commission Ministers at Large:** **Kenneth Boerger** [96 votes – ___%]
25 Dale Lehrke [56 votes – ___%]
26 **Christine Spohn** [92 votes – ___%]

27 Names in **Bold** are elected.

28

29 **Motion to dispose of the ballots was made, seconded and carried.**

30

31 **PRESENTATION BY COMMISSION FOR MINISTERIAL HEALTH**

32 The Rev. Gil Duchow came forward to made a presentation to the professional church worker
33 who will receive a free week retreat at Canyon of the Eagles Retreat Center in Burnett, Texas.
34 The winner of the drawing is the Rev. John Hohe of Powell, OH.

35

36 **MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES**

37 **Motion was made, seconded and carried** that the minutes of the Convention from Thursday
38 afternoon through Friday evening be approved.

39

40 **RESOLUTION 9-09 FROM THE FLOOR**

41 The content of **Resolution 9-09** (*See Resolutions Tab*) dealt with an overture to be offered by
42 the Ohio District to the 2010 Synod Convention to delay voting on the recommendations of the
43 BRTFSSG until the 2013 Synodical Convention. There were 85 votes cast in favor, 49 against.
44 **The motion passed.**

45

46 **INSTALLATION OF CIRCUIT COUNSELORS**

47 President Cripe installed as Circuit Counselors those who were elected:

- 48 NW1.....Michael Saylor
- 49 NW2.....Doug DeWitt
- 50 NW3.....John Rutz
- 51 NE1.....Doug Riley
- 52 NE2.....Jim Weist
- 53 NE3.....David Luecke
- 54 NE4.....Jeff Johnson
- 55 NE5.....Gary Richard

- 1 NE6.....Powell Wood
- 2 NE7.....Jonathan Schroeder
- 3 SW1.....Larry Rodencal
- 4 SW2.....Everett Greene
- 5 SW3.....Tony Sobocinski
- 6 SE1.....James Gau
- 7 SE2.....Matt Hoffman
- 8 SE3.....Mark Kloha

9 *(It should be noted that at the conclusion of the Convention it had not yet been determined how*
10 *the seven Circuits in the former North East Region would be divided into the two new Regions:*
11 *North Central and North East.)*

12
13 **INSTALLATION OF OHIO DISTRICT SECRETARY AND**
14 **MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

15 President Cripe installed those who were elected as District Secretary and members of the
16 Board of Directors.

17
18 **RECOGNITIONS**

19 President Cripe recognized the executive staff of the Ohio District which the convention thanked
20 with their applause. Bonnie Mann introduced the support staff who were with us. President
21 Cripe thanked his secretary, Vivian Smerldi, for all her work in preparation for the convention.

22
23 **MOTION TO ADJOURNED**

24 A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the nineteenth convention of the Ohio
25 District. President Cripe called on our Chaplain for a final word from our Lord and a prayer of
26 blessing. We closed with the hymn "Go, My children with My Blessing."

27
28 Respectfully submitted,
29 The Rev. Richard E. Kurth,
30 Ohio District Secretary