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MINUTES

**63rd REGULAR CONVENTION
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
GEORGE R. BROWN CONVENTION CENTER
HOUSTON, TEXAS**

**Session 10
Thursday A.M., July 19, 2007**

Call to Order

President Gerald Kieschnick called the final session of the convention to order and asked convention chaplain Dale Meyer to introduce the devotion leader, Rev. Matthew Harrison, Executive Director of the Board for Human Care Ministries. With Mark 1:38 as his text, he spoke of Jesus as a Savior on the move, with marching orders for His church as well: "Let's go!" Referencing the presidency of F. C. D. Wyneken as one of the great missionary times of the church, he spoke of the importance of the message of repentance to accompany the One Message: Christ.

Recognition of Former Officers and Church Body Leaders

President Kieschnick recognized the service of former officers of the Synod present for the convention: Presidents Ralph Bohlmann and Robert Kuhn; First Vice-President Daniel Preus; former Treasurer Paul Middeke; and former Chief Administrative Officers John Schuelke and Brad Hewitt.

He then introduced special guests in attendance from other Lutheran church bodies in the United States: Rev. Thomas Aadland, Presiding Pastor of the American Association of Lutheran Churches; Rev. Franklin Hays, Presiding Pastor-Elect of the American Association of Lutheran Churches; Rev. James Pope, a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Commission on Inter-Church Relations; Rev. Glenn Obenberger, Vice-President of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod; and Rev. Lowell Almen, Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Also introduced were the following leaders of Lutheran church bodies around the world in Houston to attend an *Ablaze!* International Summit:

Rev. Peter Ahlers, Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa
Rev. Thomas Bernard, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti
Rev. James Cerdeñola, The Lutheran Church in the Philippines
Rev. Edgardo Elseser, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina
Rt. Rev. Dr. Paul Fynn, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana
Rev. Alceu Figur, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Paraguay
The Rev. Jean Haessig & Rev. Philippe Volff, Evangelical Lutheran Church—Synod France & Belgium
Rev. Arri Kugappi & Rev. Olav Panchu, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia
Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan, Lutheran Church—Canada
Rev. Mario Lehenbauer, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil
Most Rev. Walter Obare, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya
Rev. David Piso, Gutnius Lutheran Church, Papua New Guinea
Rev. Reginald Quirk, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of England
Rev. S. Rajagambeeram, India Evangelical Lutheran Church
Rev. Carlos Schumann, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Republic of Chile
Rev. Kimio Takano & Rev. Masaki Shirai, Japan Lutheran Church
Rev. Dr. David Tswaedi, Lutheran Church in Southern Africa
Rev. Dr. Hyun-Sup Um, Lutheran Church in Korea
Rev. Janis Vanags, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia
Rev. Gijsbertus van Hattem, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Belgium
Rev. Hans-Jörg Voigt, Independent Evangelical – Lutheran Church, Germany

1 Following a standing ovation by the convention, each of the foreign church leaders was presented with a special and
2 timely gift intended to mark the occasion.

3
4 *Committee 1: Missions*

5
6 Committee 1 Chairman Robert Newton called the convention's attention to Res. 1-13, "To Commend International
7 Church Partners and Worldwide Mission Effort" (*TB*, p. 179). After it was read in its entirety and introduced by the
8 committee, the resolution was adopted without discussion (Yes: 1,006; No: 14).

9
10 *Greetings from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

11
12 Reverend Lowell G. Almen, Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, brought his church body's
13 official greetings to the convention. Speaking of the relationship between the ELCA and the LCMS, he emphasized
14 the very different histories of the two church bodies and the need to stay in contact and work together as much as
15 possible (the text of his presentation will be provided in the *Convention Proceedings*).

16
17 *Committee 8: Synod Structure and Governance*

18
19 After the President called the convention's attention to Special Standing Rule 2 and its importance for the final
20 session of the convention, Committee 8 Co-Chairman Larry Stoterau introduced Res. 8-07S (substitute), "To Call
21 Special Convention to Amend Synod Structure and Governance" (handout), introducing a motion on behalf of the
22 committee "that a two-thirds majority vote be required for this substitute resolution." The chair outlined a process to
23 be used to consider the substitute resolution in light of the committee's motion, also expressing his own support.
24 After the speakers at the convention floor microphones returned to their seats to vote, the convention first agreed to
25 requiring a two-thirds vote to adopt the substitute resolution (Yes: 620; No: 490), then voted to end debate on the
26 substitute resolution (Yes: 874; No: 241), and then voted to adopt Res. 8-07S by the necessary two-thirds vote (Yes:
27 793; No: 325).

28
29 When a motion was introduced to permit delegates to have their votes entered into the minutes, the chair ruled that
30 for the remainder of the convention, delegate votes would be allowed to be registered as desired. The following
31 delegates asked to have their negative votes on Res. 8-07S entered into the minutes: Benjamin Ball, Richard A.
32 Becker, Peter Bender, Arie Bertsch, Bruce Blocker, Steven W. Bohler, Richard A. Bolland, Daniel Brege, Neal
33 Breitbarth, Paul E. Bremer, Steven C. Briel, Eric J. Brown, Christopher C. Browne, Doris Burns, Myron G. Buss,
34 John Casebeer, Kirk Clayton, Russell Davies, William Keith Davis, Roger Dilger, W. C. Dissen, Justin Dragosani-
35 Brantingham, Burnell F. Eckardt, Jr., Mark Eckert, Paul Egger, Shawn Ethridge, Stephen Fisher, Ryan Fouts, Gary
36 V. Gehlbach, Timothy Hafner, David Hansen, Carl J. Harberts, Benjamin Harju, Norman Hauschildt, Gregg Hein,
37 Charles Henkel, Gary Hoffmann, Daniel G. Holthus, William H. Holzer, Craig Howell, Frederick K. Jabs, Al
38 Jacobs, Ronald Kabitzke, Richard R. Kreutzer, Henry J. Koopmann, Josepha Lecke, Ken Mangold, David
39 Markworth, Wendel K. Marotzke, Wayne Mc Bride, Philip G. Meyer, Alan Miller, Bruce A. Nathan, Chris Nelson,
40 Ron Ohnesorge, Bruce D. Osborne, Raymond Parent, Gary A. Piepkorn, Peter Piepkorn, Glen Piper, Michael
41 Poynter, Davin Quiram, Fritz A. Raedeke, Russell D. Reimers, John Riley, Elliott M. Robertson, Frank Schatte, Tim
42 Schenks, Dana Schnelle, Bruce Schreiner, S. R. Schumacher, Ken Sparbel, Don Stauty, Roger D. Sterle, Eric A.
43 Stinnett, Winfred Strieter, Le Roy B. Sundbom, David Teigen, Matthew J. Theriault, Bruce Timm, Magdalen
44 Veitenruber, Donald Wagner, Douglas Wanderer, Paul M. Weber, Henry C. Wied, Allan D. Wierschke, Danl Wipf,
45 Alan Wollenburg, Robert Wurst, Loren C. Zell.

46
47 Res. 8-13, "To Amend Bylaws for Special Convention" (handout), was introduced by the committee. After
48 discussion, during which the committee estimated that the special convention would meet for two to three days, a
49 motion to end debate was carried (Yes: 968; No: 118) and Res. 8-13 was adopted (Yes: 937; No: 156). The
50 following delegate asked to have his negative vote recorded in the minutes: Ron Ohnesorge.

51
52 Res. 8-04, "To Provide Wording for Congregations' Constitutions and Bylaws" (*TB*, p. 147), was introduced with
53 introductory comments by the committee. During discussion, an amendment to change "may" in the last resolve to
54 "be encouraged to" was agreed to by the committee. Upon question of the chair, the assembly agreed to cease debate
55 (Yes: 1,007; No: 66) and Res. 8-04 was adopted as changed (Yes: 1,054; No: 35). The following delegates asked to
56 have their negative votes recorded in the minutes: Stanley Abraham, James W. Hallerberg.

1 Res. 8-05A, “To Encourage the Study of CTCR Documents Relating to Public Rebuke of Public Sin” (*TB*, pp. 290–
2 291) was read in its entirety and introduced by the committee. During discussion that followed, the committee
3 agreed to replace the word “recognize” in the first resolve with the word “affirm,” and to add the words “and to
4 Amend the Synod’s Bylaws Relating to Matthew 18” to the title of the resolution. When a lengthy amendment was
5 offered expressing concern regarding the ecclesiastical supervisory responsibility of district presidents (*TB*, p. 377),
6 the chair was supported in his ruling that the amendment was not germane to Res. 8-05A (Yes: 732; No: 287). When
7 the chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to end debate, the assembly agreed (Yes: 904; No: 147) and the
8 resolution was adopted as changed (Yes: 950; No: 122). The following delegates asked to have their negative votes
9 recorded in the minutes: Steven W. Bohler, Mark Eckert, Charles Henkel, Harold King, Wendel K. Marotzke, Ron
10 Ohnesorge, Davin Quiram, Paul Weber, Jim Wiese.

11 12 *Committee 5: Seminary and University Education*

13
14 After attention was called to Res. 5-03A (*TB*, pp. 194–195) and the presidents of the Synod’s seminaries spoke in
15 support, the resolution was introduced by the committee. During discussion, an amendment was offered to insert a
16 new #5 under Bylaw 3.8.2.5.2, “5. Appointed members may not vote on the appointment of other members of the
17 Board.” The committee agreed to this amendment initially, but changed its mind, leaving the amendment for the
18 assembly to decide. When the Commission on Constitutional Matters asked for time to consider the amendment,
19 debate continued on the main motion. After the commission reported that the amendment would affect other
20 appointed members of the board such as the officers of the Synod, discussion continued until the Orders of the Day
21 prompted the chair to ask whether the assembly was ready to terminate debate on the amendment. After the
22 assembly voted to cease debate (Yes: 860; No: 69), the amendment was adopted (Yes: 471; No: 467). When asked
23 whether it was ready to end debate on the amended motion, the assembly ended debate (Yes: 832; No: 106) and Res.
24 5-03A was adopted as amended (Yes: 742; No: 214). The following delegates asked to have their negative votes
25 recorded in the minutes: Benjamin Ball, William Keith Davis, Mark Eckert, Daniel G. Holthus, Kenneth Howes,
26 Robert Jahns, Bryan Lindemood, Timothy D. May, David Teigen, Paul Weber.

27 28 *Bible Study*

29
30 The chair called on convention chaplain Dean Wenthe to introduce Dr. David Buegler, former Ohio District
31 President and current Fifth Vice-President of the Synod, to provide the final Bible study of the convention. Focusing
32 his study on Acts 3 and 4, he used the verbiage of two favorite hymns to lead the delegates in a study of “ONE
33 Message—Christ!: A Message of Love to a Desperate People.”

34 35 *Committee 4: Program and Finance*

36
37 Res. 4-16, “To Hold 2010 Convention in Houston, Texas” (*TB*, p. 245) was introduced by the committee. The
38 committee asked that “and with the recommendation of” be inserted after “Meeting Planning”; that “Synod’s” be
39 inserted before “Board of Directors”; that “recommends to the 2007 convention that” be deleted; and that the word
40 “will” be inserted in the final line before the words “be held in Houston, Texas.” After a motion to terminate debate
41 was carried (Yes: 809; No: 97), Res. 4-16 with changes offered by the committee was adopted (Yes: 805; No: 118).

42
43 Res. 4-10, “To Encourage Funding for Center for Hispanic Studies” (*TB*, p. 89), was introduced by the committee
44 and was adopted without discussion (Yes: 837; No: 74).

45
46 Committee chairman Keith Kohlmeier announced that his committee would yield the balance of its allotted time to
47 the chair for use at his discretion. The members of Floor Committee 4 were thanked for their service to the
48 convention.

49 50 *Committee 6: Human Care*

51
52 Res. 6-04A, “To Encourage and Assist Congregations to Respond to the Ministry needs of the Immigrants in their
53 Midst” (*TB*, pp. 197–198), was introduced by the committee. During the discussion that followed, the committee
54 agreed to change #3 of the resolve to read: “Encourage Board for Human Care Ministries to provide legal and
55 counseling services to undocumented immigrants responding to legislation enabling them to become residents and
56 citizens.” After a motion to amend the resolution by striking #3 in the resolve, new wording was proposed for #3:

1 “Encourage the Board for Human Care Ministries to assist congregations by providing information regarding legal
2 and counseling services possibly needed by undocumented immigrants responding to legislation enabling them to
3 become residents and citizens.” The chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to terminate debate (Yes: 766;
4 No: 148). The motion to amend the resolution by deleting #3 in the resolve failed (Yes: 393; No: 526). After a
5 motion to end debate was carried (Yes: 783; No: 142), Res. 6-04A with the new wording for #3 of the resolve was
6 adopted (Yes: 744; No: 204). The following delegate asked to have his negative vote recorded in the minutes: Tom
7 Schenks.

8
9 Board for Human Care Ministries Executive Director Matthew Harrison was given opportunity to introduce Rev.
10 Wilhelm Torgerson, Director of the International Lutheran Welcome Center in Wittenberg, Germany.

11
12 Res. 6-07, “To Include People with Disabilities in All Aspects of the Church’s Life” (*TB*, pp. 118–119), was
13 introduced by the committee. After discussion, the chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to vote on the
14 resolution (Yes: 847; No: 76). Debate ended, Res. 6-07 was adopted (Yes: 926; No: 13).

15
16 *Committee 7: Planning and Administration*

17
18 Res. 7-10A, “To Amend Bylaws 1.9 and 3.9.3 Pertaining to Doctrinal Review Process” (*TB*, pp. 285–289), was
19 introduced by the committee, reading only the lines that included bylaw changes. A motion to amend Bylaw 1.9.1.1
20 (b) by adding the words “Each page of the document shall be prominently marked ‘not doctrinally reviewed’” was
21 defeated (Yes: 395; No: 457). A motion to amend Bylaw 1.9.1.1 (b) by deleting in its first sentence the words “or
22 immediately following the title page” and replacing them with the words “the cover and title page in print not
23 smaller than fourteen point type” also failed (Yes: 404; No: 467). A motion to divide the question was ruled by the
24 chair to be a substitute motion, which the assembly decided not to consider (Yes: 227; No: 633). Returning to the
25 resolution as presented, the chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to cease debate (Yes: 750; No: 116).
26 Debate ended, Res. 7-10 was adopted (Yes: 761; No: 119). The following delegate asked to have his negative vote
27 recorded in the minutes: John Riley.

28
29 *Committee 1: Missions*

30
31 Res. 1-08, “To Commend Lutheran Hour Ministries for Its Faithful Mission Focus” (*TB*, pp. 58–59), was introduced
32 by the committee. After the entire resolution was read, the resolution was adopted without discussion (Yes: 735; No:
33 95). The following delegate asked to have his negative vote recorded in the minutes: Benjamin Ball.

34
35 Res. 1-03, “To Prepare New Study and Increase Emphasis on Priesthood of All Believers” (*TB*, p. 56), was
36 introduced by the committee, reading the entire resolution. A motion immediately to end debate was not carried
37 (Yes: 391; No: 457). In the discussion that followed, the committee responded to a motion to strike the final resolve
38 with a suggestion that “after approval by the Synod in convention” be inserted into the final resolve after the word
39 “That.” This was agreed to by the delegate who had made the motion to amend. An additional amendment to insert
40 “and Luther’s teaching on vocation” after “priesthood” in the first resolve was also agreed to by the committee.
41 After the assembly agreed to end debate (Yes: 732; No: 117), Res. 1-03 was adopted (Yes: 714; No: 151). The
42 following delegates asked to have their negative votes recorded in the minutes: Ronald Kabitzke, Henry J.
43 Koopmann.

44
45 Res. 1-04, “To Encourage Intentional Mission Development Focus” (*TB*, pp. 56–57), was introduced by the
46 committee and adopted without discussion (Yes: 708; No: 115).

47
48 Res. 1-10, “To Encourage Creative Partnerships Between Districts and Congregations and the LCMS Sister and
49 Partner Churches” (*TB*, p. 59), was introduced by the committee. During discussion, changes were made to the
50 resolves, inserting “individuals, congregations, institutions, organizations, and auxiliaries” after “districts” in the
51 first resolve, and replacing “congregations within these districts” with “all these entities” in the second resolve.
52 Resolution 1-10 was then adopted as changed (Yes: 768; No: 57).

53
54 Res. 1-11, “To Continue Assessing LCMS Campus Ministry and Its Association with the ELCA” (*TB*, p. 60), was
55 introduced by the committee. During discussion, an amendment was offered to delete from the final whereas
56 paragraph the words “I believe it is important for me to state my ongoing impression that, at many levels, the

1 ELCA continues to demonstrate a vastly different understanding of the authority of Holy Scripture and interpretation
2 of the Lutheran Confessions than does The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’ (CW, p. 8).” The chair tested the
3 will of the assembly for terminating debate on the amendment, and debate was ended by voice vote. The amendment
4 was defeated (Yes: 202; No: 613). After again terminating debate by voice vote, Res. 1-11 was adopted as presented
5 (Yes: 689; No: 137).

6
7 *Committee 8: Synod Structure and Governance*

8
9 Res. 8-06, “To Recommend Further Study of Composition of Hearing Panels in Bylaws 2.14, 2.15, and 2.17” (TB,
10 pp. 148–149), was introduced by the committee. An amendment to replace the reference to the 2010 convention in
11 the final resolve with reference to the 2009 special convention was offered and then withdrawn. Res. 8-06 was
12 adopted as presented (Yes: 654; No: 89).

13
14 Res. 8-10, “To Refer for Theological Study CCM Opinions 02-2296, 02-2309, and 02-2320” (TB, p. 151), was
15 introduced by the committee. During discussion, a substitute resolution was proposed (TB, p. 378). After comments
16 by the delegate proposing the substitute resolution and the floor committee, the chair invited comment from the
17 Commission on Constitutional Matters. When a delegate challenged this action by the chair on the basis of Special
18 Standing Rule 15, the assembly upheld the action of the chair (Yes: 469; No: 333). After the assembly voted not to
19 consider the substitute resolution (Yes: 375; No: 426), discussion continued on the main motion. A motion was
20 offered to amend the resolution with Overture 8-37 (CW, p. 273). After the chair had ruled the amendment a
21 substitute resolution and after the maker of the motion and the floor committee had been given opportunity to speak,
22 the assembly declined to consider the substitute resolution (Yes: 272; No: 513). After debate was terminated (Yes:
23 615; No: 175), Res. 8-10 was adopted (Yes: 603; No: 191). The following delegates asked to have their negative
24 votes recorded in the minutes: Henry J. Koopmann, Le Roy B. Sundbom.

25
26 *Committee 5: Seminary and University Education*

27
28 Res. 5-07A, “To Change CUS Membership Structure” (TB, pp. 195–196), was introduced by the committee and
29 further explanation was offered by Dr. Alan Borcharding of the Board for University Education staff. When the
30 presence of a quorum was questioned, the chair asked delegates to use their keypads to indicate their attendance
31 (706 delegates voted). A quorum being present, Res. 5-07A was voted on and adopted (Yes: 611; No: 78).

32
33 Floor Committee 5 having completed its work, Committee Chairman Jon Diefenthaler recognized Dr. L. Dean
34 Hempelmann, retiring Executive Director of the Board for Pastoral Education, for his service to the Synod. Dr.
35 Hempelmann received a standing ovation from the assembly.

36
37 *Committee 2: District and Congregational Services*

38
39 Res. 2-09, “To Initiate Planning for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation” (TB, pp. 66–67), was introduced by
40 the committee. The resolution was adopted (Yes: 627; No: 85) without discussion.

41
42 *Committee 6: Human Care*

43
44 Res. 6-09, “To Encourage Ministry to Armed Forces Personnel and Families” (TB, p. 120) was introduced by the
45 committee and adopted without discussion (Yes: 715; No: 10).

46
47 Res. 6-08, “To Encourage Congregations to Provide Professional Church Worker Sabbaticals” (TB, pp. 119–120),
48 was introduced by the committee. After brief discussion, the chair asked the assembly whether it was ready to vote
49 on the resolution. After debate was ended by a voice vote, Res. 6-08 was adopted (Yes: 680; No: 59).

50
51 *Committee 2: District and Congregational Services*

52
53 Res. 2-07A, “To Encourage Christian Forgiveness and Greater Use of Individual Confession and Absolution” (TB,
54 p. 182), was introduced by the committee. After discussion, a voice vote indicated the assembly’s readiness to vote
55 on the resolution. Res. 2-07A was adopted (Yes: 690; No: 31).

56

1 *Final Business*

2
3 As the convention prepared to adjourn, a survey question of interest for planning a 2009 convention was asked of
4 the delegates: 1. Delegate seating for a number of conventions has been according to a computer-generated random
5 plan. 2. Some have expressed an interest in being seated according to circuit delegations. The assembly was asked to
6 vote for one of the two options: #1: 516; #2: 173.

7
8 The chair called attention to the minutes for Sessions 6-9 (*TB*, pp. 421–436) and asked for corrections or additions.
9 None were offered and the minutes were declared approved.

10
11 After asking the members of his committee to be recognized, Committee 9 Chairman Larry Harvala provided the
12 final Registration Report:

13

14	Voting delegates:		1,239
15	Pastors	620	
16	Laymen	619	
17	Advisory delegates		328
18	District presidents		34
19	Ad hoc committee members		3
20	Former officers		2
21	Invited guests		27

22

23 The members of the *Today's Business* staff were introduced and thanked with a standing ovation: Ann Schmidt,
24 Pearl Houghton, Allison Zehnder, Kathy Ledbetter, Brenda Wilson, Kathryn Gritts, and Christine Presson.

25
26 *Adjournment*

27
28 The chair declared the 63rd Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod adjourned “In the name
29 of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” The historic gavel was returned to Dr. Martin Noland,
30 Director of Concordia Historical Institute, for safe keeping until its next use. Convention chaplain Dale Meyer led
31 the convention in a closing devotion.

32
33 Following the devotion, President Kieschnick offered a “strong personal presidential word of appreciation” to the
34 delegates attending the convention, noting in particular the “sharing of personal conviction with such high respect
35 and proper demeanor.” He sent the delegates on their homeward way with final words of benediction.

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Raymond L. Hartwig, Secretary